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W e e k l y

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Elastoplast

Souvenir Poster Inside
QSL CHAMPIONS - FIRE



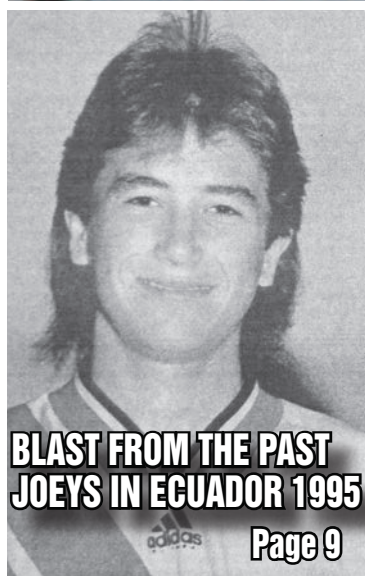
This Week's Line Up



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JOEYS IN ECUADOR 1995
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CANNONS TRIUMPH IN
PRELIMINARY FINAL
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AND THEN THERE WERE TWO...
IT'S GULLY V CANNONS!



ALANIC VPL GRAND FINAL 2011
Green Gully Cavaliers v Oakleigh Cannons
Saturday 3rd September 2011
AAMI Stadium KO 4pm

PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

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PHOENIX FIGHTBACK PLEASES COACH

Wellington Phoenix coach Ricki Herbert left Shepparton on Friday night pleased with his players' reactions in a 2-2 draw with Melbourne Heart at Deakin Reserve. The at-times scrappy pre-season encounter gave both coaches a chance to assess their players' progress, along with an opportunity to see how trialists competed against Hyundai A-League opposition. As had been the case against Brisbane Roar in Dunedin the previous week, defensive errors cost the Phoenix with Jason Hoffman and David Williams profiting through goals in the 27th and 54th minutes. This time however the Phoenix stormed back into the game, playing some neat football on a very bumpy pitch, as Spanish trialist Dani Sanchez netted in the 63rd minute and Leo Bertos grabbed an equaliser from a long range free-kick 14 minutes later. Buoyed by the goals, the Phoenix finished strongly and twice went close to scoring the winning goal. The overall performance left Herbert feeling satisfied with what he and his team had got out of the trip. "A trip across the Tasman is important at this time of the year as it gets us back into the mode of travelling and training," Herbert said. "I said going into the game it was a chance to get players on the park. We rested some players who had little niggles and there were some we didn't need to use as they have been playing. "The goals we conceded were very disappointing but the response from our players was very good. "The first goal was well constructed and well taken by Dani. "A strong focus for me was looking at our trialists. We brought Dani on for the second half and changed our shape a bit. "He was good in the front third of the pitch, he took his goal well and linked up well. He certainly hasn't done his chances any harm." Herbert also had words of encouragement for Victorian teenage defender Bryan Bran who had a solid game alongside captain Andrew Durante. "It was always going to be a test for Bryan," Herbert said. "When a 19-year-old comes in at this level there is always going to be some anxiety and a tendency to be tentative but Bryan grew into the game. "There were things he did that he will know he could have done better, and there were things he did very well. Both Bryan and Dani produced comprehensive performances." Herbert said the way his team bounced back from the setbacks, and finished so strongly, was the most pleasing aspect of the night. "It shows we are a step closer physically to where we need to be on October 9 (the opening league game against Gold Coast)," he said.

Emerton signs for Sydney FC

Sydney FC completed the signing of Qantas Socceroo Brett Emerton on a three-year-deal that brings one of this country's finest football ambassadors back to Australia. Emerton, who was born and raised in Sydney, returns home after a stellar 11-year career in Europe, where he played 338 matches for Feyenoord and Blackburn, during which time he was one of the most consistent and effective players in the Socceroo squad. With 87 National Team appearances, Emerton is the second most capped Socceroo and represented Australia at the 2006 and 2010 World Cups. He is still a critical member of the National Team and has every intention of representing Australia at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. "This is an exciting opportunity for me," Emerton said. "I'm a Sydney boy and I'm looking forward to representing the people of Sydney every week and playing in front of friends, family and Sydney football fans. "Football has been very good to me and I have always said I'd like to come back and play in the A-League while I still have something to offer and thanks to Sydney FC and Blackburn Rovers that opportunity has come about a bit earlier than I had thought." Sydney FC Vice Chairman Scott Barlow said "The Sydney FC Board has for some time viewed the signing of Brett Emerton as a major priority. We have been fortunate that this has come to fruition a year earlier than we had anticipated after Brett requested, and was granted, a release from the last year of his contract with English

The Emerton File

BRETT EMERTON
Born: Sydney
Date of Birth: 22 February 1979

Club career:
Sydney Olympic (Australia)
1996/97 – 1999/2000 91 games 14 goals
Feyenoord (Netherlands)
2000/01 – 2002/03 92 games 11 goals
Blackburn Rovers (England)
2003/04 – 2011/12 246 games 13 goals

National Team career:
Socceroos: 87 games 18 goals
Debut v Chile in 1998

Represented Australia at 2006 & 2010 FIFA World Cups
U23s (Olyroos): 27 games 8 goals

Represented Australia 2000 Olympics
U20s: 19 games 2 goals

Represented Australia 1997/1999 U20 World Cups
U17s: 11 games 1 goal

Premier League club Blackburn Rovers. "Brett is an incredible role model for all young footballers in Australia and his return to his home town of Sydney while he is still at the peak of his powers is a major coup for Sydney FC and the Hyundai A-League". "We are committed to delivering the highest quality football experience we can to our fans and today's announcement is an important step towards this goal". Sydney FC CEO Dirk Melton echoed the sentiments of Mr Barlow: "This is a landmark day in the history of both football in Australia and Sydney FC," Mr Melton said. "Brett is one of the best football players Australia has produced and



Brett Emerton at the 2006 World Cup in South Africa after the Socceroos defeated Serbia 2-1.

he is coming to our club at a time when we are focussed on building a sustainable foundation for the future. "The attributes that Brett will provide Sydney FC both on and off the field will greatly assist our objective to create a high performance culture and realize our vision of enhancing the passion and belonging that fans have for our club." Emerton will play his last game for Blackburn Rovers on Saturday

night when he takes on Tim Cahill's Everton at Ewood Park in what shapes as the perfect final chapter in his eight-year stint at Blackburn and his 11 year European career. He will then fly home and join the Qantas Socceroos for the opening 2012 World Cup Qualifiers before joining his Sydney FC team mates as they prepare for the start of the 2011/12 Hyundai A-League against Melbourne Victory on 8 October.

Socceroos Squad named for Asian Qualifiers

Qantas Socceroos Head Coach Holger Osieck announced his squad for Australia's opening 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers against Thailand (Brisbane, 2 September 2011) and Saudi Arabia (Dammam, Tuesday 6 September 2011). Osieck has selected an extended squad of 23 players which includes all 18 players who were part of the Qantas Socceroos squad that recently defeated Wales in Cardiff City earlier this month as well as Brett Holman who had to withdraw from the squad due to a slight groin strain. Coming into the Qantas Socceroos squad are goalkeeper Nathan Coe, defenders Sasa Ognenovski & Mark Milligan and striker Josh Kennedy. Adding to the local flavour, seven of the Qantas Socceroos selected are born, or were raised, in Queensland (Nathan Coe, Luke DeVere, Neil Kilkenny, Robbie Kruse, Matt McKay, Adam Sarota and Michael Zullo) and 6 of the 23 (Luke DeVere, Robbie Kruse, Matt McKay, Sasa Ognenovski, Adam Sarota and Michael Zullo) have played for Brisbane Roar, or their previous incarnation Queensland Roar, in the Hyundai A-League.

Local Brisbane-boy Luke DeVere will also have the chance to make his senior international debut in his home town should he take the field against Thailand at Suncorp Stadium. This will be the third A-International between the Qantas Socceroos and Thailand, with the two nations having last met at the AFC Asian Cup 2007 where Australia won 4-0 at the Rajamangala National Stadium in Bangkok. It will be the fourth encounter between the Qantas Socceroos and Saudi Arabia with the Saudi's winning the last match 1-0 in the group stage of the 1997 FIFA Confederations Cup which was held in Riyadh. The Qantas Socceroos will begin to assemble in Brisbane on Monday 29 August ahead of the match. Alex Brosque will replace Scott McDonald, who has succumbed to a hamstring strain. Brosque's inclusion brings the number of former Brisbane Roar/Queensland Roar players in the Qantas Socceroos squad to seven (7).

All Qantas Socceroos matches are broadcast live and exclusive on Fox Sports

Socceroo Squad			
Player	Club, Country, A-International matches (goals)		
Tim CAHILL			
Everton FC, ENGLAND	53 (24)		
Nathan COE			
Sønderjysk Elitesport, DENMARK 2 (0)			
Luke DeVERE			
Gyeongnam FC, KOREA REPUBLIC -			
Brett EMERTON			
Blackburn Rovers, ENGLAND	87 (18)		
Adam FEDERICI			
Reading FC, ENGLAND	4 (0)		
Brett HOLMAN			
AZ Alkmaar, NETHERLANDS	48 (6)		
Mile JEDINAK			
Crystal Palace FC, ENGLAND	27 (2)		
Josh KENNEDY			
Nagoya Grampus, JAPAN	24 (9)		
Neil KILKENNY			
Bristol City FC, ENGLAND	10 (0)		
Robbie KRUSE			
Fortuna Dusseldorf, GERMANY	8 (2)		
Alex BROSQUE			
Shimizu S-Pulse, JAPAN	6 (0)		
Matthew McKAY			
Brisbane Roar, AUSTRALIA	17 (0)		
Mark MILLIGAN			
JEFF United, JAPAN	11 (1)		
Lucas NEILL			
Al-Jazira Club, UAE	73 (0)		
Sasa OGENOVSKI			
Seongnam Ilhwa Chunma, KOREA	10 (1)		
Adam SAROTA			
FC Utrecht, NETHERLANDS	1 (0)		
Mark SCHWARZER			
Fulham FC, ENGLAND	90 (0)		
Matthew SPIRANOVIC			
Urawa Red Diamonds, JAPAN	7 (0)		
James TROISI			
Kayserispor Kulubu, TURKEY	6 (1)		
Carl VALERI			
U.S. Sassuolo Calcio, ITALY	39 (1)		
Luke WILKSHIRE			
FK Dinamo Moscow, RUSSIA	60 (4)		
Rhys WILLIAMS			
Middlesbrough FC, ENGLAND	6 (0)		
Michael ZULLOFC			
Utrecht, NETHERLANDS	5 (0)		



Home Grown: Matt McKay

Match Details

2014 FIFA World Cup
Asian Qualifiers – 3rd Round
Group D – Match Day 1

Socceroos vs. Thailand
Friday 2 September, 2011
Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane
Kick Off: 8.00pm
Gates Open: 6.00pm

Short Passes

Kerr ruled out
Westfield Matildas Head Coach Tom Sermanni confirmed that striker Sam Kerr has been ruled out of 2012 London Olympic Games Asian Qualification tournament after sustaining a serious knee injury during training in Jinan, China. Speaking from the team hotel, Sermanni was disappointed to see Sam exit the tournament under such circumstances but is confident that she will make a full recovery. "Sam's injury occurred during a fairly innocuous challenge at training today. "Unfortunately, this sort of thing happens in sport, but importantly Sam is in as good spirits as you can expect at this time. "Sam is such a lively, popular member of the squad and creates such a vibrancy about the place that her presence will be sorely missed. "All our thoughts are with Sam at the moment and we're all sure she'll bounce back. Sam Kerr will now return to Australia immediately for treatment. A possible replacement player will be announced in the coming days. The Westfield Matildas will open their 2012 London Olympic Games Asian Qualification campaign against DPR Korea on 1 September.

AUFC W-League Coach Announced
Football Federation South Australia is pleased to announce the appointment of David Edmondson as the Head Coach of the Adelaide United Westfield W-League team for the next two seasons. Edmondson will be employed by the FFSA as the full time Head of Women's Football. Edmondson holds a UEFA A License and coached the New Zealand Women's Under 17 team in their 2010 World Cup Campaign. Edmondson has been involved in the women and girls game in New Zealand for the past 10 years and is looking forward to arriving in Adelaide in September to start in his new role. "I am excited about the opportunity to work with some talented female footballers in South Australia, both in my role as Head of Women's Football and as head coach of the Adelaide United Westfield W-League team," he said.

ADELAIDE UNITED TO GIVE SUPPORTERS A VOICE
For the first time in the club's history, Adelaide United FC will offer members voting rights on the future direction of the club. Going on sale from 9am today, Adelaide United's new membership scheme will be a separate category to that of a season ticket holder and will give supporters the right to vote on the composition of an Adelaide United Football Club Committee, ultimately giving them a voice and a sense of ownership of the club. Up to three of the Reds' 2011/12 financial members will be elected to the Club's Management Committee, which reports to the Board. "Membership is the foundation on which all sporting clubs around the world are built. It is a matter of passion, of choice and being valued," Adelaide United Chairman Greg Griffin said. "Strong membership provides long term financial stability for sporting organisations and will give us the ability to re-invest in both the club's senior and youth football departments, provide an exciting and safe game day experience and foster strong commercial partnerships." "We want all South Australians and our fans interstate and abroad to join us on our journey of continuing to be at the forefront of football success, development and entertainment in Australia."

CARLE INSPIRES SFC
Sydney FC remained undefeated and marquee midfielder Nick Carle scored another two goals as Sydney FC beat NSW Premier League side Bankstown City Lions 4-2 at Jensen Park on Wednesday night.

GENOVA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF SOCCER

1300 793 505



ENGLAND EPL													
												Last5games	
												<i>Most recent first</i>	
1 Liverpool	3	2	1	0	6	2	+4	7	W	W	D		
2 Chelsea	3	2	1	0	5	2	+3	7	W	W	D		
3 Wolves	3	2	1	0	4	1	+3	7	D	W	W		
4 Manchester City	2	2	0	0	7	2	+5	6	W	W			
5 Manchester United	2	2	0	0	5	1	+4	6	W	W			
6 Aston Villa	3	1	2	0	3	1	+2	5	D	W	D		
7 Wigan Athletic	3	1	2	0	3	1	+2	5	W	D	D		
8 Newcastle United	2	1	1	0	1	0	+1	4	W	D			
9 Bolton Wanderers	3	1	0	2	7	6	+1	3	L	L	W		
10 Everton	2	1	0	1	1	1	+0	3	W	L			
11 Queens Park Rangers	3	1	0	2	1	6	-5	3	L	W	L		
12 Stoke City	2	0	2	0	1	1	+0	2	D	D			
13 Sunderland	3	0	2	1	1	2	-1	2	D	L	D		
14 Norwich City	3	0	2	1	3	5	-2	2	L	D	D		
15 Swansea City	3	0	2	1	0	4	-2	2	D	D	L		
16 Arsenal	2	0	1	1	0	2	-2	1	L	D			
17 Fulham	2	0	1	1	0	2	-2	1	L	D			
18 West Bromwich	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0	L	L			
19 Tottenham Hotspur	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0	L				
20 Blackburn Rovers	3	0	0	3	2	6	-4	0	L	L	L		

SPAIN La Liga													
												Last5games	
												<i>Most recent first</i>	
1 Valencia	1	1	0	0	4	3	+1	3	W				
2 Real Sociedad	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	3	W				
3 Real Betis	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	3	W				
4 Athletic Club	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0					
5 Atlético Madrid	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0					
6 Barcelona	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0					
7 Espanyol	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0					
8 Getafe	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0					
9 Levante	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0					
10 Mallorca	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0					
11 Málaga	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0					
12 Osasuna	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0					
13 Rayo Vallecano	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0					
14 Real Madrid	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0					
15 Real Zaragoza	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0					
16 Sevilla	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0					
17 Villarreal	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0					
18 Racing Santander	1	0	0	1	3	4	-1	0	L				
19 Sporting Gijón	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0	L				
20 Granada	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0	L				

FRANCE Ligue 1													
												Last5games	
												<i>Most recent first</i>	
1 Montpellier	4	3	0	1	9	3	+6	9	L	W	W	W	
2 Olympique Lyon	4	2	2	0	7	4	+3	8	W	D	D	W	
3 Toulouse	3	2	1	0	5	1	+4	7	D	W	W		
4 Saint-Étienne	3	2	1	0	3	1	+2	7	D	W	W		
5 Lorient	4	2	1	1	4	4	+0	7	W	L	D	W	
6 Caen	3	2	0	1	4	3	+1	6	L	W	W		
7 Dijon	4	2	0	2	4	7	-3	6	W	W	L	L	
8 Auxerre	4	1	2	1	8	7	+1	5	W	D	D	L	
9 Bordeaux	4	1	2	1	5	5	+0	5	W	D	D	L	
10 Evian TG	4	1	2	1	4	4	+0	5	L	D	W	D	
11 Stade Rennes	3	1	1	1	6	6	+0	4	L	D	W		
12 Sochaux	3	1	1	1	5	5	+0	4	W	L	D		
13 Lille	3	1	1	1	3	3	+0	4	W	L	D		
14 PSG	3	1	1	1	3	3	+0	4	W	D	L		
15 Brest	4	0	4	0	3	3	+0	4	D	D	D	D	
16 Olympique Mar	3	0	3	0	4	4	+0	3	D	D			
17 Nice	4	0	2	2	2	5	-3	2	D	D	L	L	
18 Ajaccio	4	0	2	2	3	8	-5	2	L	D	D	L	
19 Nancy	4	0	1	3	3	6	-3	1	L	L	D	L	
20 Valenciennes	4	0	1	3	2	5	-3	1	L	L	D	L	

GERMANY Bundesliga													
												Last5games	
												<i>Most recent first</i>	
1 Bayern München	4	3	0	1	9	1	+8	9	W	W	W	L	
2 Werder Bremen	4	3	0	1	9	5	+4	9	W	W	L	W	
3 Borussia M'glad...	3	2	1	0	6	2	+4	7	W	D	W		
4 Borussia Dortmund	4	2	1	1	5	2	+3	7	D	W	L	W	
5 Hannover 96	3	2	1	0	5	3	+2	7	D	W	W		
6 Bayer Leverkusen	4	2	1	1	2	2	+0	7	D	W	W	L	
7 Schalke 04	3	2	0	1	9	6	+3	6	W	W	L		
8 Mainz 05	3	2	0	1	6	5	+1	6	L	W	W		
9 Hoffenheim	4	2	0	2	5	4	+1	6	L	W	W	L	
10 Nürnberg	4	2	0	2	3	4	-1	6	W	L	L	W	
11 Hertha BSC	4	1	2	1	4	4	+0	5	W	D	D	L	
12 Stuttgart	4	1	1	2	4	3	+1	4	L	L	D	W	
13 Freiburg	4	1	1	2	9	9	+0	4	W	L	L	D	
14 Köln	4	1	1	2	6	12	-6	4	W	D	L	L	
15 Wolfsburg	4	1	0	3	4	8	-4	3	L	L	L	W	
16 Augsburg	4	0	2	2	3	6	-3	2	L	D	D		
17 Kaiserslautern	4	0	2	2	2	7	-5	2	L	D	D	L	
18 Hamburger SV	4	0	1	3	6	14	-8	1	L	L	D	L	

HOLLAND Eredivisie													
												Last5games	
												<i>Most recent first</i>	
1 Twente	4	4	0	0	12	2	+10	12	W	W	W	W	
2 Ajax	4	3	1	0	15	5	+10	10	W	D	W	W	
3 Feyenoord	3	2	1	0	6	1	+5	7	D	W	W		
4 Vitesse	4	2	1	1	7	5	+2	7	L	W	W	D	
5 RKC Waalwijk	4	2	1	1	6	4	+2	7	W	W	L	D	
6 NEC	4	2	1	1	6	7	-1	7	W	L	W	D	
7 AZ	3	2	0	1	7	3	+4	6	W	L	W		
8 PSV	3	2	0	1	5	3	+2	6	W	W	L		
9 Utrecht	4	1	2	1	6	5	+1	5	W	L	D	D	
10 Heracles	4	1	2	1	6	6	+0	5	L	D	W	D	
11 Groningen	3	1	1	1	7	6	+1	4	D	W	L		
12 Roda JC	4	1	0	3	3	9	-6	3	L	L	L	W	
13 De Graafschap	3	0	2	1	4	7	-3	2	D	D	L		
14 VVV	4	0	2	2	3	10	-7	2	L	D	L	D	
15 NAC Breda	4	0	1	3	4	7	-3	1	L	D	L	L	
16 Excelsior	3	0	1	2	1	5	-4	1	D	L	L		
17 ADO Den Haag	3	0	1	2	2	7	-5	1	L	L	D		
18 Heerenveen	3	0	1	2	4	12	-8	1	L	L	D		

SCOTLAND SPL													
												Last5games	
												<i>Most recent first</i>	
1 Motherwell	6	4	1	1	9	5	+4	13	W	L	W	W	D
2 Rangers	4	3	1	0	8	1	+7	10	W	W	W	D	
3 Celtic	4	3	0	1	8	2	+6	9	L	W	W	W	
4 St. Mirren	5	2	2	1	4	3	+1	8	W	L	D	W	D
5 Dunfermline Ath	5	2	2	1	7	7	+0	8	L	W	W	D	D
6 Kilmarnock	5	1	3	1	6	4	+2	6	L	D	W	D	D
7 Dundee United	6	1	3	2	7	11	-4	6	D	L	L	D	W
8 Heart of Mid	5	1	2	2	4	3	+1	5	D	W	L	L	D
9 St. Johnstone	5	1	2	2	4	6	-2	5	D	W	L	L	D
10 Aberdeen	5	1	1	3	2	6	-4	4	W	L	L	L	D
11 Inverness CT	6	1	1	4	6	12	-6	4	W	L	L	D	L
12 Hibernian	4	1	0	3	3	8	-5	3	L	L	W	L	

THE CHAMPIONSHIP													
												Last5games	
												<i>Most recent first</i>	
1 Brighton & Hove	5	4	1	0	10	4	+6	13	W	D	W	W	W
2 Southampton	5	4	0	1	12	6	+6	12	L	W	W	W	W
3 Derby County	5	4	0	1	8	3	+5	12	L	W	W	W	W



Classy Liverpool defeat Bolton to go top

Euro Wrap



Matthew Galea

EPL:

Liverpool went to the top of the table at least for a day after a eye catching display at Anfield against Bolton Wanderers. There were goals for new boys Charlie Adam and Jordan Henderson, who opened the scoring in the 15th minute, their first in the Liverpool shirt.

Liverpool looked good playing at a high tempo, and it seemed only a matter of time before Henderson's goal. Liverpool struggled to score another before half time but they remained well and truly on top of Bolton. In the second half, Liverpool continued to dominate, demonstrating a ruthless streak that has been missing for so many years at Anfield, and comfortably saw off the Bolton threat after a powerful header from Martin Skrtel before Adam sealed the deal only a minute later in the 53rd minute. Ivan Klasnic snatched a last minute consolation.

In London, Chelsea finally delivered a classy performance under new boss Andres Villa-Boas. Juan Mata was handed a Premier League debut, which he capped with a goal in the 90th minute to see out a 3-1 win for Chelsea. It wasn't all good news though, as Didier Drogba was seemingly knocked unconscious and required a stretcher and a breathing aid shortly after Norwich had equalized Bosingwa's 6th minute goal in the 63rd minute. It wasn't enough to stop Chelsea though, as Ruddy got himself sent off and conceded a penalty ten minutes from time. Lampard converted with ease, before Mata rounded off the victory.

In the early kick off, the midlands derby between Aston Villa and Wolves was a tepid affair, but gave us a chance to have a look at young Aussie Chris Herd. Young Herd had a terrific game, and kept the ever troublesome Matt Jarvis very quiet, after surviving an early injury scare in which he clattered the post of Wayne Hennessey's goal. A game which lacked it's usual intensity, the game petered out into a 0-0 draw.

A superb brace from Franco Di Santo, including a stunning volley for his first, was enough to earn Wigan their first win of the season over newly promoted Queen Park Rangers, who didn't field new signing Joey Barton. Rodallega was at his best, troubling QPR's

defence all game. QPR were a tad unlucky though, hitting the woodwork on a number of occasions.

At Ewood Park, Everton picked up their first three points of the campaign courtesy of a last minute penalty from Mikel Arteta in a contentious match. Arteta's was actually the third of the game, with the other two given Blackburn's way. David Hoilett took the first in the 47th minute, which was superbly saved by Howard, before Mauro Formica hit the post with his own spot kick in the 84th minute. It was not the send off Brett Emerton had in mind, in what was his last Premier League appearance, before heading back to Australia to take part in the upcoming A-League season.

Sunderland and Swansea City saw out a 0-0 draw in the only other game to be played on Saturday night.

Bundesliga:

On Friday night, Hertha Berlin sealed a solid 1-0 win over VfB Stuttgart. It was a win at home that has become far too infrequent for Berlin, a win sealed by a late header from Raffael, his second of the campaign.

Berlin had started strongly but were forced to fend off Stuttgart who grew in confidence as the game went on. The win moves Berlin to 11th spot on the table, whilst Stuttgart fell to 12th. Wolfsburg find themselves lingering just above the relegation zone after another heavy defeat, this time at the hands of SC Freiburg. It's not been a good couple of weeks for the former champions, and that was compounded in the 30th minute when Oliver Barth put Freiburg one goal to the good. That was followed by a right footed strike from Erik Jendrisek who put Freiburg 2-0 up. The rout was completed in the Cedric Makiadi in the 59th minute.

The most exciting game of the night was played out in Hamburg, where the home team succumbed to a 4-3 loss after Kevin McKenna's late strike in the 88th minute. Mladen Petric converted a penalty in the 11th minute to put Hamburg 1-0 up, only for that to be cancelled out ten minutes later when Adil Chihi scored for the visitors. Cologne then went 2-1 up when Novakovic's right footed close range finish hit the back of the net. The scene was set for a thrilling closing 30 minutes and neither side failed to deliver. Slabodan Rajkovic kicked off the final scoring run with a neat close range finish in the 60th minute. Only two minutes later, Hamburg found themselves 3-2 up when Heung Min-Song converted after a great assist from Robert Tesche from the right side of the goal. Cologne would not be denied though



Jordan Henderson and Charlie Adam score their first goals for Liverpool as they go top of the Premier League with a deserved 3-1 victory over Bolton.

and a quick double from Clemens and McKenna in the 84th and 88th minute respectively sealed a 4-3 win for the visitors.

Bayern Leverkusen and champions Borussia Dortmund saw out what was perhaps the poorest game of the round, with a 0-0 draw. Both teams ended the game with 10 men. Michal Kadlec was sent off for Leverkusen in the 64th minute after a bad foul, which was also why promising youngster Mario Gotze was sent off in the 77th minute.

Werder Bremen put themselves in second position after a strong win away to TSG Hoffenheim. An otherwise quiet first half burst into life in the 37th minute after Robert Firmino scored for the home side, which was met with an instant reply only a minute later when Marko Arnautovic scored, slotting the ball into the bottom left hand corner of Tom Starke's goal. Bremen sealed the win late on when Swedish striker Markus Rosenberg converted Claudio Pizarro's cross.

A hattrick from German international Mario Gomez was enough to secure top spot for the night for Bayern Munich in a 3-0 win away at Kaiserslautern. Gomez converted a penalty in the 37th minute for his first, then adding his second early in the 55th minute. Gomez had a chance to complete his hattrick only seconds later when Munich were awarded a penalty, however he failed to convert the spot-kick. Gomez wouldn't be denied though and he sealed his hattrick in the 69th minute. The win puts them top, at least until Matthew Leckie's Borussia Monchengladbach play on Sunday night.

The only other game of the night saw Nurnberg defeat FC Augsburg 1-0, in a result which sees Augsburg find themselves in the relegation zone.

La Liga:

The Spanish Primera Division finally kicked off overnight after the opening round of fixtures was postponed due to a players strike. Only three games were played with the majority of games set to be played on Sunday night.

Real Sociedad managed to win their opening game away to Sporting Gijon 2-1. Imanol Agirretxe was the hero for the visiting fans, scoring an impressive pair of headers. The first came in the 35th minute, and the second in the 65th minute. Agirretxe's goals represented Real Sociedad's only two strikes on target all game. Sporting Gijon converted a penalty in the 68th minute to open up an exciting finale, however they couldn't find the equalizer they sought.

It was a disappointing opening day for newly promoted Granada who opened up their bid to stay in the top Spanish division with a 1-0 loss at home to Real Betis. Granada were the victims of a crushing late winner, courtesy of Ruben Castro who headed home from close range after a superb cross from Jonathan Pereira. Betis were the stronger side on the day, enjoining 57% of possession, and managing far more attempts on goal.

Valencia also picked up three points on the opening day, despite the loss of Juan Mata to Chelsea, in a thrilling 4-3 win over Racing Santander. Roberto Soldado was the hero scoring what turned out to be a match winning hattrick, getting off to the best of starts with a goal in the opening minute. Ironically, only five minutes later, Santander had equalized through an own goal, scored by Soldado himself. Santander impressed after that, going 2-1 up when Lautaro Acosta scored in the 14th minute, and managed a 3-1 lead in the 56th after a goal from Adrian

Gonzalez. Adil Rami pulled one back only a minute later, before Robert Soldado stole the show with an equalizer in the 88th minute, before finishing with aplomb in the 90th minute to grant Valencia a hard earned three points in their opening game of the season.

Serie A

There were no Serie A fixtures this week in light of a player strike. Season Preview on page 18.

2011/12 UEFA Champions League Groups

Group A

- 1. FC Bayern München
- 2. Manchester City FC
- 3. SSC Napoli
- 4. Villarreal CF

Group B

- 1. Trabzonspor AS
- 2. LOSC Lille Métropole
- 3. PFC CSKA Moskva
- 4. FC Internazionale Milano

Group C

- 1. Manchester United FC
- 2. FC Basel 1893
- 3. FC O-elul Gala-i
- 4. SL Benfica

Group D

- 1. Olympique Lyonnais
- 2. GNK Dinamo Zagreb
- 3. Real Madrid CF
- 4. AFC Ajax

Group E

- 1. Valencia CF
- 2. Chelsea FC
- 3. Bayer 04 Leverkusen
- 4. KRC Genk

Group F

- 1. Arsenal FC
- 2. Olympiacos FC
- 3. Olympique de Marseille
- 4. Borussia Dortmund

Group G

- 1. FC Zenit St. Petersburg
- 2. FC Porto
- 3. FC Shakhtar Donetsk
- 4. APOEL FC

Group H

- 1. FC BATE Borisov
- 2. FC Barcelona
- 3. AC Milan
- 4. FC Viktoria Plzen

2011/12 UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE

Group A

- FC Rubin Kazan. PAOK FC. Tottenham Hotspur
- FC. Shamrock Rovers FC

Group B

- FC Vorskla Poltava. Hannover 96. R. Standard de Liège. FC København

Group C

- Legia Warszawa. Hapoel Tel-Aviv FC. FC Rapid Bucuresti. PSV Eindhoven

Group D

- FC Vaslui. FC Zürich. Sporting Clube de Portugal. 4. S.S. Lazio

Group E

- Maccabi Tel-Aviv FC. FC Dynamo Kyiv.. Stoke City FC. Besiktas JK

Group F

- FC Salzburg. ŠK Slovan Bratislava. Athletic Club. Paris Saint-Germain FC

Group G

- FC Metalist Kharkiv. AZ Alkmaar. Malmö FF. FK Austria Wien

Group H

- 1. SC Braga. Club Brugge KV. NK Maribor. Birmingham City FC

Group I

- FC Sion. Udinese Calcio. Stade Rennais FC. Club Atlético de Madrid

Group J

- FC Schalke 04. Maccabi Haifa FC. AEK Larnaca FC. FC Steaua Bucuresti

Group K

- FC Twente. Wisla Kraków, Odense BK, Fulham FC

Group L

- AEK Athens FC, SK Sturm Graz, FC Lokomotiv Moskva, RSC Anderlecht

Matchday One take place on Thursday 15 Sep

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The search for a new Colo-Colo coach continues

Latin Wrap



Francis Fields

The saga with Chile’s top club Colo-Colo continues with controversy. Following the sacking of high-profile Argentinean coach Américo “Tolo” Gallego two weeks ago after a poor run of results along with a perceived defensive-minded playing style, the hunt for his successor remains unclear.

Over a vast majority of poll voters online have found a resounding mix of responses to the prospect of Ivo Basay taking the helm as the club’s top job. Basay is the closest of several other candidates.

In the Chilean Clausura or closing championship, the ANFP or the professional football association does not state in its laws of the game whether or not a coach can manage two different club sides in the one competition.

The subject of controversy is that Ivo Basay - himself a former leading goalscorer with Colo-Colo and famously with Necaxa of Mexico is still contracted with the managing reigns at O’Higgins of Rancagua.

O’Higgins club officials are furious with his back-flip decision sighting to media reports that the cost of such a move is unnecessary. The redundancy pay packages Colo-Colo are involved along with the cost of signing up Basay is another chapter in the club’s financial net of activities this second half of the season after buy six of the most high demand players in the country.

Ethically the turnaround has been the subject of widespread discontent with O’Higgins supporters, football viewers alike and of both satisfaction particularly among the Colo-Colo faithful who welcome his inception to the club as a former favourite son.

Basay has yet to officially sign for Colo-Colo yet.

Columbia search for coach
On to Colombia where its football officials are still on their search for a new national coach after the resignation of Hernán Darío Gómez earlier this month who acknowledged he struck a woman in a bar.

Gómez announced his resignation two weeks ago following the incident, but said last Sunday he would leave despite suggestions the Colombia federation might not accept his departure.

Argentine coach Gerardo Martino has turned down an offer to take charge of Colombia. The former Paraguayan coach who stepped down in July after the Copa América was offered the job at a meeting with Colombian Football Federation president Luis Bedoya during the past week.

The federation said that Gerardo Martino had declined the offer. The decision leaves Colombia still needing to find a coach before World Cup qualifiers start in October.

Colombia President Juan Manuel Santos joined calls for Gómez to be replaced and suggested a foreign coach, but Bedoya said the priority was simply a candidate who “gives us the profile to obtain qualification to the World Cup.”With the Argentine out of the frame, Colombian coach Alexis García, in charge of La Equidad, and Uruguay-born Julio Avelino Comesana, who leads Deportivo Pereira, have been mentioned as possible alternatives.

The federation said Bedoya was authorised to restart conversations with “several” other coaches to fill the position.

Colombia has an encouraging group of young players, led by striker Radamel Falcao. The side performed encouragingly in the Copa América in July despite getting knocked out in the quarter-finals.

A new clásico of old
During the past week, Julio César Falcioni - coach of club giant Boca Juniors was asked whether or not the derby or clásico against rivals San Lorenzo is a derby of new or if it will ever match River Plate in the stakes.

Falcioni replied, “there is only one clásico and that is against River. They are sadly missed.”



Juan Román Riquelme seen here with his Boca coach at training both currently enjoying their joint top spot in the table. Do they agree with whom they play out the “clásico”?

Boca Juniors and San Lorenzo share an interesting record of “clásico” matches however they play today, Monday AEST in the Argentine Apertura.

Copa Sudamericana update
Colombian club side Independiente Santa Fé defeated Universidad César Vallejo of Peru 2-0 last Tuesday to reach the second round of the Copa Sudamericana.

Independiente had drawn 1-1 with Vallejo in the first leg earlier this month.

Second-half goals from Sergio Galván Rey and Oscar Rodas were enough to give the home side a comfortable victory in the return at Nemesio Camacho stadium, the “El Campín” of Bogotá where the FIFA U-20 final was hosted successfully last weekend.

The 3-1 aggregate win sends Independiente through to the second round, where they will tackle Deportivo Cali in an all-Colombian affair.

Also last Tuesday, Botafogo secured their passage to the last 16 with a 1-0 victory at home to Atlético Mineiro.

Botafogo led 2-1 in the tie courtesy of their victory away to fellow Brazilian side Atletico in the first leg on August 11.

Germán Herrera’s penalty in the 45th minute at the Olimpico João Havelange stadium was the difference in the second leg, with Botafogo going through 3-1 on aggregate.

La Equidad also booked their place into the second round of the Copa Sudamericana courtesy of a 2-1 win away to Peruvian side Juan Aurich last Thursday.

The Colombian side La Equidad led the tie after winning the first leg 2-0 at home the week before. Trailing 1-0 for much of the return match at the Elias Aguirre stadium after Mauricio Alejandro Montes put the Peruvian hosts ahead in the 15th minute.

That lead alone would not have been enough to send Juan Aurich through and they fell further behind in the tie when Victor Alfonso Guaza equalised for the visitors on 74 minutes.

Juan Núñez then completed a comprehensive victory for La Equidad with a penalty in the last minute, making it 2-1 in the match and 4-1 on aggregate. They now meet Paraguayan side Libertad in the second round.

It is peculiar that the second semester continental club tournament is played in different states.

Elsewhere on Thursday, Vasco da Gama lost 3-1 away to fellow Brazilian side Palmeiras in the second leg of their second-round tie, but still progressed 3-3 on aggregate via the away goals rule.

Palmeiras came out on top in the match courtesy of goals from Luan, Kléber and veteran Marcos Assunção at the Paulo Machado de Carvalho stadium.

But Jumar’s 57th-minute strike for the visitors, coupled with their 2-0 victory in the first leg earlier this month, mean Vasco progress to the round of 16.

Meanwhile Flamengo and São Paulo are also through but to the last 16 of the Copa Sudamericana after securing second-leg victories on Wednesday. They shall wait for the tournament to progress to meet their qualifying rivals.

Ronaldinho was the hero yet again for Flamengo, scoring the only goal in the second leg as the Brazilian side secured a 2-0 aggregate victory over Atlético Paranaense.

Having scored the winner from the

penalty spot in the first leg at home, the two-time FIFA World Player of the Year continued his incredible scoring run in the return fixture at the Joaquim Américo Guimarães stadium.

He netted in the 74th minute to ensure Flamengo’s passage into the last 16 of the tournament with a 1-0 win, as they go in search of their first Copa Sudamericana title in the club’s history.

São Paulo defeated fellow Brazilian side Ceará 4-2 on aggregate after three second-half goals gave them a 3-0 win at home.

After losing the first leg 2-1 away from home, São Paulo needed a victory by at least one goal at the Cicero Pompeu stadium if they were to make it to the last 16.

The tie was hanging in the balance when the sides went into half time locked at 0-0, but goals from Cicero, Lucas Silva and Dagoberto in a nine-minute period just after the interval swung the match in São Paulo’s favour.

Internacional crowned champions of the Recopa Sudamericana

Interestingly enough, the Recopa Sudamericana contests the respective champions of the Copa Libertadores and the Copa Sudamericana of the previous year.

A somewhat equivalent to the European SuperCup, the second leg was contested last Thursday in the southern Brazilian city of Porto Alegre where last year’s Libertadores champion Internacional hosted Argentinean side Independiente, the Sudamericana 2010 holders.

The Brazilian side was trailing a 2-1 deficit from the home leg in Buenos Aires where Independiente had secured their win. This time round, it was a familiar scene where Internacional knew what it took to defeat an Argentine side.

Inter pressed during the first half and piled in attacks particularly with crosses and shots from long range.

In 25 minutes forward Leandro Damiao made it 2-0 with two opportunistic dribbles that caught the Independiente goalkeeper and defence by surprise.

Independiente made it 2-1 however and the tie meant the Recopa trophy went to the Argentinean club. Defender Maximiliano Vásquez volleyed home from a direct throw-in that stunned the local side and its supporters.

An intense second half it was until Internacional’s Kleber scored the run-away 3-1 with seven minutes remaining on the clock to ensure the Brazilian claimed the Recopa title for the second time in its history.

Exciting goalless draw in Ecuador
This is no joke. One of the three traditional derbies or “clásicos” in Ecuadorian football is between Barcelona of Guayaquil and Liga Deportiva Universitaria of Quito or quite simply, LDU - the current holders.

Last week however in the country’s capital the two giants were hold scoreless on Thursday as neither side was able to capitalise.

It was a thrilling match however with plenty of drama and not for the faint heart as the old cliché goes. LDU playmaker Miler Bolaños was close to scoring hitting the woodwork at just 6 minutes of play and then his team-mate, Argentinean Hernán Barcos on 21 minutes.

Barcelona goalkeeper Máximo Banguera was also in fine form denying several chances particularly one from Paraguayan international Enrique Vera

while at the other end, the Guayaquil-based men had their fair share of chances gone begging leaving LDU second in the standings in the Ecuadorean Serie A championship and third in the overall table.

What football retirees do: take up the wheel

Argentinean ex-footballers Martin Palermo and former goalkeeper Roberto Abbondanzieri said to reporters last week that were “excited and enthusiastic” about the prospect of making their debut in motor racing.

The category Top Race Series is an Argentinean motor sport division that takes place on the 4th of September in Buenos Aires at the “Oscar y Juan Gálvez” raceway.

“We know what it means, it is a risk but you take it with responsibility”, said Martin Palermo. The ex-Boca legend will be defending the GT Racing colours in front of fans and racing car category president Alejandro Urtubey who was delighted with the press conference.

In terms of expectations, both former Boca legends emphasised that they do not wish to finish at the podiums just yet. “Our aim is to finish comfortably which is important and if we can, we will press the accelerator but the main idea is to gain valuable experience, that’s all”, said the former goalkeeper Abbondanzieri.

By the same token, after taking successful football careers both intend to now take themselves the wheel and provide a different shot at life clocking up kilometres behind their respective Vectra vehicles. Both are confident their football backgrounds are no different to any other sporting endeavour. Good luck to them both.

Brazilian football clubs reaping benefits
Ahead of the country’s strong economy, Brazilian clubs according to Luis Paulo Rosenberg of Corinthians are on the up. The São Paulo giants, who lead the current 2011/12 Brazilian national championship, were linked with an audacious bid for Manchester City striker Carlos Tévez during the European off-season.

The transfer was unable to be completed before the Brazilian transfer window closed in July.

But according to Corinthians marketing director Rosenberg, the attempt to re-capture former player Tevez was a display of the league’s new-found financial muscle.

“We are much wealthier than we used to be,” Rosenberg said.

“In Corinthians for instance, four years ago, our total revenues were about 30 million dollars and this year it will be around 150 million.”

“Secondly, Brazil has changed. By changing Brazil there is much more credibility involved, the firms and corporations are much more profitable than they used to be, and also, the exchange rate has been much more favourable for Brazil.”

Another indication of Brazilian football’s strength has been the ability of Santos to retain star player Neymar, despite numerous advances from European heavyweights. The club also acquired the services of Brazil international forward Robinho on a six-month loan from Manchester City in 2010.

“I believe that our clubs will be growing at a faster pace than in Europe and this will make a difference,” he said.

“But I think that for a long time we



Jubilant scenes with Inter of Porto Alegre lifting the Recopa Sudamericana trophy last week edging out Independiente 3-1 in the return leg.

will still be exporting players because we are much better producers of talents than Europe; it’s part of our nature to play soccer. But they (players) will stay longer and will come back earlier.”

Rosenberg believes players will continue to leave Brazil in the future, but expects them to spend a larger proportion of their career back home. It is a sign that the country is on the up where a decade ago local clubs were repeatedly crying foul to several crises and economic problems to which they could not retain players and attendance records were sometimes poor.

Nacional in transfer bundle
Ricardo Alarcón, club president of Nacional of Uruguayan club giants Nacional is in a challenge to maintain the prestige and image of its proud and historic club.

The club boss explained to several media entities that the transfer of club forward Nicolás López of only 17 years of age is a product of player agent opportunism at the hands of Pablo Bentancur, currently in a tug-of-war with the club.

The young forward is contracted to Nacional until November of 2013.

López failed to show up to training at the club headquarters during the week and his absence has sparked numerous feuds. The subject has been taken out of proportion around several Uruguayan football newspapers and Nacional president has stated the merry-go-round must stop.

The fact that the player and his family are indeed abroad in Italy trying to secure a contract with a club over there however several notable Nacional players intercepted media reports by saying that the report was false and that the only person who had travelled was the father.

In the words from a statement, president Alarcón shed some alarming words.

“The most worrying of issues is the defence of the player himself as an individual. Nacional as a club will not be rich nor poor from the sale of the player but we need to defend the image of the club as an institution. Nobody can come in and damage our football club. The club is above all involved in all the actions of this particular case and it is matter to resolve. There are people evidently involved in football who are unaware their ill intentions bring consequences that today can be accounted for. Those who enjoy football, we say enough is enough. All of this hurts for the player, for his family and for his friends. To be in the media, in newspapers and to see that after all the player is still only a child is really worrying. He is seeking the best for his future no doubt and we as a club need to defend our interests as well”.

Alarcón alerted to “calm down” and expressed his versions of the story indicating that the youngster who made his debut in May and has scored 7 goals will return to the club later this week and action measures will be taken.

The news also sparked a clear warning across Uruguayan clubs to handle such cases where players are dealt with player agents in trying to secure trials and luck overseas without prior consent of the clubs. The Federation, the AUF called for a meeting to all clubs to discuss the common issue as Uruguay keeps producing a fine line of quality young talent ready to be exported.

The Montevideo-based club is hoping for more positive light on its transfers

with the prospect selling of star defender Sebastian Coates to English giant Liverpool. His national team-mate Luis Suárez has reportedly put in a word for him at the club.

Coates has been tagged as a future defender and captain of the Uruguayan national side and pioneered to succeed in the responsibilities already taken up while impressing at the recent Copa América. Stay tuned for more transfer news in the next week or so.

Away fixtures ban lifted in Argentina and violent cries for Mexico

Thousands of soccer fans in Argentina will be able to support their teams at away matches for the first time in four years after the Argentine Football Association lifted a ban on visitors in the lower leagues.

The ban was put in place in July 2007 amid rising violence inside and outside stadiums that culminated in a fan’s death after a promotion playoff between Nueva Chicago and Tigre.

The ban will be lifted this weekend, and did not apply to clubs in the country’s top Primera División. The AFA was under pressure to scrap the ban after top club River Plate’s surprise relegation last season.

In June, River was relegated to the second division for the first time in its 110-year history, a blow to a club that has won 33 titles in the top flight — 10 more than anyone else.

At River’s first away match in the lower tier, home club Independiente Rivadavia sold around 15,000 tickets to visiting fans in defiance of the ban.

Faced by the practical difficulties of keeping River fans from attending away matches, the AFA decided to lift the ban for all clubs in the four divisions beneath the top flight on Tuesday.

“The return of fans to pitches is good news,” AFA president Julio Grondona said.

Finally Mexican football officials have asked the country’s Government for help after shootings outside a stadium at the weekend.

Gunfire erupted 40 minutes into a match between Santos and Monarcas Morelia in Torreon, with players forced to run to the dressing rooms as spectators looked for cover.

It is believed the trouble began after vehicles carrying armed men failed to stop at a military checkpoint outside the stadium.

One policeman was wounded, although none of the players or the 20,000 spectators inside the stadium were injured.

The incident is being blamed on the country’s crime problem and the secretary general of the Mexican Football Federation, Decio De María, said responsibility for resolving the problem lies with the local, state and federal officials.

“We reiterate, at all levels of government and to all the different powers: come to an agreement and solve the basis of this problem which affects our society and rescue the true values that we, as a society, hold,” De María said. “From the perimeter of a stadium outward is the responsibility of the three levels of government and we all need to be clear in the diagnosis so that we can find pertinent solutions to avoid this kind of situation.”

Around 42,000 people have died in drug-related killings since President Felipe Calderón came to power in 2006 and promised to crack down on crime.

Balkan Wrap



Alex Milic

Serbia European football has come to an early end for Serbian teams as both Partizan and Red Star failed to progress to the Group Stages of the Europa League.

Red Star was humbled by French side Rennes in the second leg 4:0 and went out 6:1 on aggregate while Partizan lost disgracefully against Semi-Pros if you can even call them that from Ireland. Shamrock Rovers defeated the Serbian Champions in Belgrade 2:1 aet. It was one of the biggest debacles in Serbian football history and one the fans will never forgive.

Partizan took the lead but a goal early in the second half levelled the aggregate scores at 2:2. The match went into extra time and with 8 minutes remaining the Irish Semi-Pros stunned the home side and took the lead which booked them a spot in the Europa League for the first time in their history and for the first time in Irish football history a team will play in a Group Stages of a European football club competition.

The home fans did not take the defeat lightly and started throwing bottles at Partizan players while calling for the resignation of the complete back room staff especially Manager Aleksandar Stanojevic who promised Champions League football but at the end will not even

Dinamo breaks Croatian drought



Dinamo Zagreb are through to the Group stages of the European Champions League.

play in the second string competition. What is also funny is that the home fans were delighted when they heard their rivals Red Star had lost 4:0 in France but they laughed and celebrated too early as they are now the laughing stock of both Europe and Serbia. A loss to a club like Shamrock can never be forgiven. A club with the money of Partizan especially after playing in the Champions League last season and winning the Serbian League four years running should be ashamed of itself. It was a very very dark night for Serbian football.

Red Star was not up to the level of Rennes in the second leg in France. 4:0 was just an example of how much behind the club to the top leagues in Europe. Speed and Phys-

ical attributes were the main factors of the loss and of course the level of competition Rennes gets week in week out compared to Red Star was also a major factor. Robert Prosinecki was not at all disappointed with the loss as he himself knows that Red Star and its players need to step up immensely if they are going to compete amongst the best of the best in Europe.

Red Star and Partizan must now turn their full attention to the Serbian League and after two rounds both the Eternal rivals have lost one much which goes to show the League race will be wide open this season especially with young and talented clubs like OFK Beograd, FK Rad and Vojvodina all doing well.

Miralem Sulejmani has been called back into the Serbian Squad for the crucial Euro 2012 Qualifiers against Northern Ireland and the Faroe Islands. Sulejmani has been on fire for Ajax and has already scored 3 goals in 4 matches in the Eredivisie. Nemanja Vidic and Milos Krasic will be absent for the two matches due to injury.

Croatia

After 12 years Croatian football will have a team competing in the UEFA Champions League. Dinamo Zagreb managed to scrape through Malmö 4:3 on aggregate to seal a spot in the prestigious competition and bank 30 million euros.

Going into the second leg Dinamo

had a 4:1 advantage and it was certain they would qualify but Malmö gave everything it had and could have easily gone through to the Group Stages themselves but not for the heroics of Dinamo Goalkeeper Ivan Kelava who saved Dinamo on numerous occasions. 2:0 was not enough for the Swedish side which can certainly be proud of its performance.

Dinamo was drawn into Group D where they will take on giants of European football Real Madrid, Ajax and Lyon. It is not at all an easy group but Dinamo will have six matches they have wanted in over decade to see at what level they are at. The six time consecutive winners of the Croatian League will finally get that chance and for their fans will get to see some of the best clubs and players Europe has to offer.

“This fantastic success is a big promotion of this football club but it is also the promotion of our city Zagreb and entire Croatia across Europe. This is a chance for Zagreb, as a host of other future football events, to shine in new light, as the city of hostile citizens and big opportunities. This is a chance to host the largest world footballers and their clubs in the majestic décor of Maksimir, and to oppose these rivals in a best possible way. Eventually this is a chance to show that Dinamo belongs to the top of European football scene. We are looking forward to witness the spectacular games on the European stage. We are hoping and wishing that Dinamo, Zagreb audience and our city present themselves in a best possible way – said Mayor of Zagreb Milan Bandić regarding Dinamo’s victory.

Viva Espana



Pepe Lopez

La Liga Kicks Off

The 2011-2012 Spanish La Liga has finally kicked off after nearly 2 weeks of negotiation between between the Liga de Fútbol Profesional (LFP) and Association of Spanish Footballers (AFE).

“After the meeting today (Thursday, August 25) between the AFE and the LFP, the strike scheduled for Friday August 26, Saturday August 27, Sunday August 28 and Monday August 29 is off.”

Read a statement from the AFE web-site. The statement further read; “Here at the AFE, we thank the understanding and patience of all those who have been affected. Finally, and most importantly, we want to thank all the non-Spanish and Spanish players who play in our championship... We want to convey how proud we are of them all and the unprecedented unity and solidarity they have shown at a time when many of their colleagues were struggling.”

UEFA President Michel Platini commented on the precarious financial position of one of Europe’s elite football competitions, as further player strike action threatens to also delay the start of the 2011-2012 Italian Serie A competition. “Football seems to be going pear-shaped. I fear for the future of professional football. There are a lot of red lights flashing at the moment.”

The strike drama will give Platini plenty of ammunition to push forward with his proposals to introduce to European Football the same conceptual system of financial regulation that currently exists in the German Bundesliga. Under the German Football Association’s policy for football club financial regulation, all German clubs need to submit to the GFA an annual independently audited financial statement. The statement requires comprehensive financial data, which must include a bottom line net profit for the past season, and a projected net profit for the upcoming season.

English club Manchester City, backed by UAE oil magnates from Abu Dhabi, are currently one of the biggest spending clubs in Europe. The has sparked much controversy by announcing that their financial support is being delivered to the club via a largely over-valued stadium sponsorship deal. It is feared that this “creative” accounting strategy of club Manchester City will only bring the concept of financial regulation into disrepute and undo the good example set by the German Football Association.

Results of La Liga opening day Sporting Gijón 1 - 2 Real Sociedad Valencia 4 - 3 Racing Santander Granada 0 - 1 Real Betis

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE AT SAXON SPORTS

The 2011 Riviera Hotel Champions League at Saxon Sports Frankston is fast approaching.

An indoor soccer tournament with a difference!

With last years tournament attracting teams from as far as the UK, as well as all over the South East Region, much hype and anticipation surrounds the teams that will contest for Champions League glory in 2011 and the \$3000 prize money!

With The Riviera Hotel, Seaford as our major sponsors once again all teams receive replica team shirts of the side they represent free of charge! The team shirts will be on display shortly, as soon as the teams qualify for the official tournament we’ll be getting the shirts in the centre!

Will last years winners Arsenal return this year and attempt to defend their title?

Only time will tell!

And with just 32 spots available its sure to fill up very quickly.

There is plenty to play for with \$3000 PRIZE MONEY up for grabs, teams play for the European Cup Trophy, the Europa League Trophy and The Golden Boot Award is another much sought after honour for grabs - last year’s winner won it with 62 goals! Can anyone beat that this year?

Highlights are posted weekly on our YouTube Channel, results and weekly round ups are reported in Goal! Weekly, on Facebook and on our website.

The tournament kicks off with the Team Draw Night on Wednesday 28th September.

At the Team Draw Night you will receive your team shirts, which are provided free of charge by us here at Saxon Sports.

At this event each team captain selects the team they wish to rep-



resent, the draw takes place in the order that teams sign up and registration fees are paid.

Who you gonna be? Your favorite team? The team with the best shirts? Or a tactical choice to avoid playing certain teams in the group stage?

So if you desperately desire to enter a team then get in early!!

The format is simple, the 32 teams that are playing in the real European Champions League will be represented at Saxon Sports from Wednesday October 5th to Wednesday December 21st.

8 groups of 4 play each other both ‘home and away’ with the top 2 from each group progressing to the Champions League final 16 and the 3rd & 4th placed teams in each group enter the Europa League final 16.

After the group stage, each game is played over 2 legs with the away goals rule deciding games that are tied on aggregate at full time in the second leg - just like the real thing!

Here’s the full Riviera Hotel 2011 Champions League Program of Events

Draw Night
Wednesday 28th September

Group stage Game 1
Wednesday 5th October

Group stage Game 2
Wednesday 12th October

Group stage Game 3
Wednesday 19th October

Group stage Game 4
Wednesday 26th October

Group stage Game 5
Wednesday 2nd November

Group stage Game 6
Wednesday 9th November

Final 16 First Leg
Wednesday 16th November

Final 16 Second Leg
Wednesday 23rd November

Quarter Finals First Leg
Wednesday 30th November

Quarter Finals Second Leg
Wednesday 7th December

Semi Finals First Leg
Wednesday 14th December

Semi Finals Second Leg
Wednesday 21st December

Grand Final
Wednesday 21st December

So which team are you going to represent?

Call Saxon Sports on 9783 6066 to register your team today! Or visit www.saxonsportsfrankston.com for more info.

You got to be in it to win it!

Bill Turner Cup Heads Into Semi Finals

By Greg Danvers

The four semi-finalists have been decided for the 2011 Bill Turner Cup to be played in the City of Lake Macquarie (Jack McLaughlin Oval at Edgeworth) next month (6&7 September).

From 440 junior high school teams the top four will play in two semi-finals on Tuesday 6 September with the winners to play the following afternoon for the coveted Bill Turner Cup.

The Bill Turner Cup, a 15 years and under knockout tournament where teams from as far north as Cairns to North Melbourne & St Albans, kicked off the FA Cup style competition in the second term of this school year.

Brisbane’s Cavendish Road State High will play Westfields Sports High from Fairfield in Sydney’s inner west in the first semi-final. Patrician Brothers Blacktown will play Marian Catholic College from Griffith in the second semi-final.

Patrician Brothers, the 1994 champions, return after 15 years while Marian, formerly Griffith Catholic, last contested the Finals Series in 2003.

Founding President of Northern NSW Schools Soccer Incorporated Mr Bill Turner is eagerly awaiting



Mark Bosnich with the one and only Bill Turner.



Ever since the internet took off many, many years ago there have been problems with piracy. Most of these problems have affected the music industry, but over the past few years the entertainment industry has seen wholesale piracy of their products, potentially costing them billions of pounds. It is no surprise that football has been affected by this too. In all honesty football and films have always been targeted by pirates.

The reason is fairly simple: people are willing to pay more to watch sports and movies than other products.

In the UK it started in the late 1990s when satellite receivers could be bought that allowed access to a package of premium channels. In the UK the people who supplied the ONDigital package went out of business because their encryptions were so weak that with a tiny bit of technical know-how anyone could watch their channels without paying.

Although this is an extreme case it just goes to show that getting your encryption right is very important. Sky TV in the UK takes any attempts at piracy very seriously and has a legion of programmers keeping one step ahead of the pirates. Of course there is only so much that Sky can do on these shores, and so pirates have over the years turned to hacking foreign packages. You see the Premier League is shown in almost every country in Europe and many of these packages include dual commentary in English so if a pirate can hack a package in, say Romania, then they get the same games as we do in England (usually more actually) and do not have to pay for them. In general, encryptions are much tighter now so a lot of pirates have turned to card sharing.

Card sharing is when someone with a legitimate satellite TV package shares that subscription over a network or server with others. There are people with Sky UK subscriptions over here that offer all the channels (including HD channels) for £12 a month. Bear in mind that the original subscription is around £70 and you'll understand why Sky is starting to take this form of piracy seriously. Also, it is worth considering that these card sharers usually have many people using their services, meaning they can make a full-time income from the proceeds. In many respects, this is no different from one of the most popular ways of

getting Premier League games for free: through peer to peer (P2P) streaming websites.

At this juncture, it is worth stating that the biggest factor in the rise of streaming sites is the faster broadband speeds which allow for increased picture quality.

The mainstream press first caught up with this phenomenon a few years ago, because of a website called justin.tv. As usual, they were way behind the game, just like they are with card sharing. The difference between card sharing and using P2P sites is that P2P sites are free and they often but not always suffer from a lack of quality. In response to this, the Premier League has been able to take down the streams for copyright violation, but the problem is they just keep coming back up again. If you check out some of these sites they are no more than a cheap site someone has set-up to make cash. How? They get paid for showing the 30 second promotional clips you sometimes get before the stream starts.

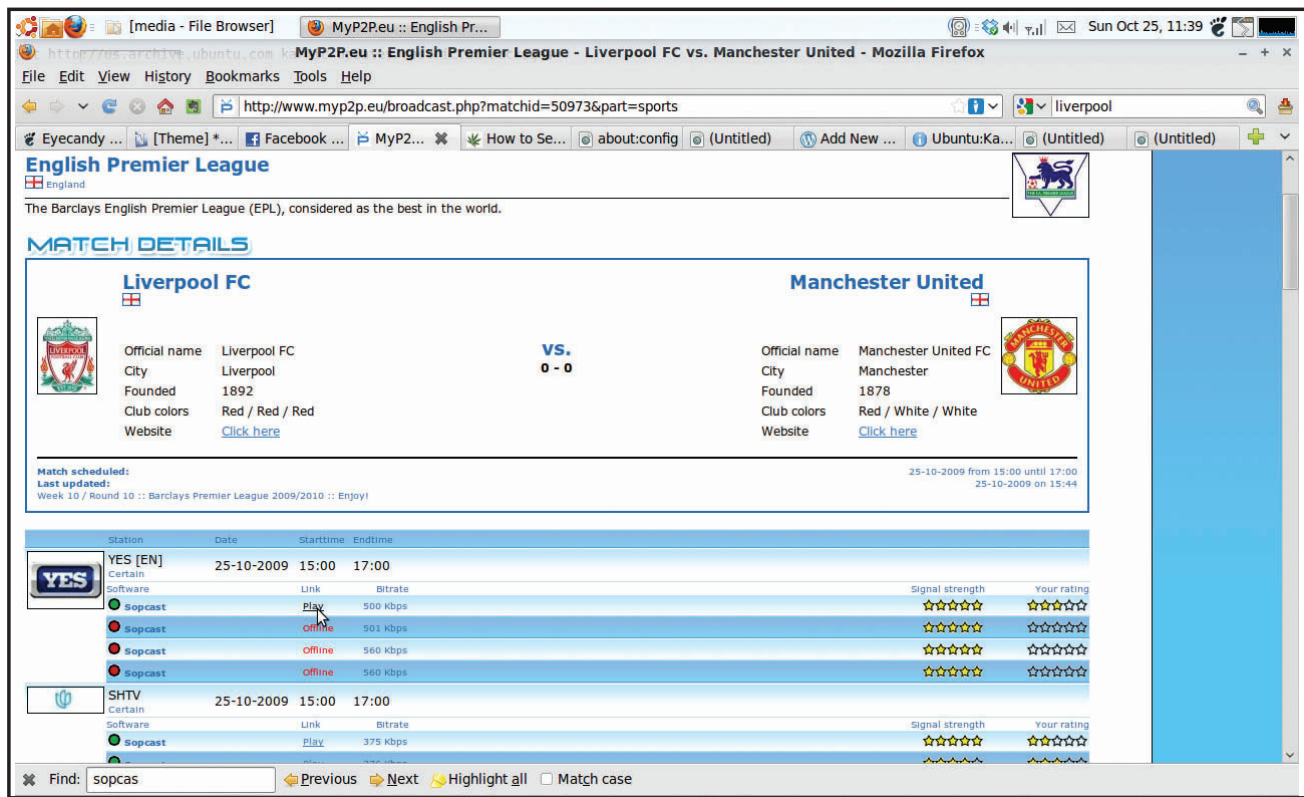
They get paid by Google for AdSense and they get paid for the pop-up ads. And no, the advertisers don't care so much about this illegal activity because they only care about eyeballs seeing their ads.

So what the Premier League has, from what I can see, is go after the websites that provide links to these illegal streams. Myp2p.eu was one of the most popular sites. It covered many sports which you could watch for free on your computer. Obviously, football is the most popular but the point is they gave links to various leagues around Europe. The site is closed down now, or at least the domain is down. The providers of myp2p.eu changed their website address and now that is down too.

We could be approaching a new era in piracy but usually pirates have ways around these things. For example, on Saturday anyone who knew where to go could watch Liverpool-Bolton, as well as two Spanish La Liga games, on a computer with a pretty good (meaning standard definition) quality picture.

And anyone with Sopcast can still watch Premier League football – and with English commentary too. The problem the Premier League has is that Sopcast is just a piece of software that allows any Tom, Dick or Harry to watch or broadcast on the internet. The only things the authorities can do is try

Football Piracy: Time For TV To Think Outside The Box



The domain Myp2p is currently 'off air' until further notice.

and take down each server individually (time-consuming) or try and ban the software (unlikely). UEFA also have the same problem and seem to be addressing it in the same way as the English.

A lot of the piracy in the UK, as I see it, comes down to the excessive cost of watching football on TV. Yes, there will always be people who want something for free, but there are people that want to watch and want to go through official channels but £600 a year is just too expensive. Don't get me wrong, I'm not advocating piracy and I understand that the quality of the service has improved. I just feel they should try and be more flexible and a little cheaper in the UK. Sky Germany's football package is £20 a month and in the UK it is £40. Yes, the product might be better but is it twice as good?

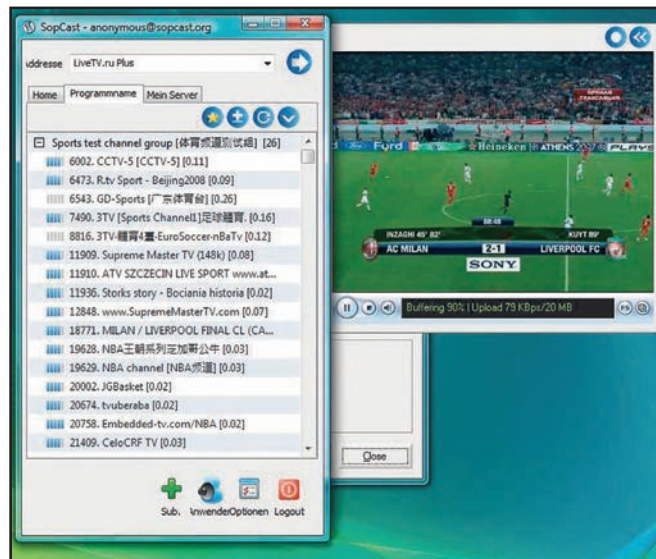
The solution, in my mind, is for companies to provide an internet service that coexists alongside the satellite service. There are film services which offer this service and they are very popular. The idea is simple: for a fixed fee you can watch certain sports channels online. In America they do this for baseball and for other sports. It runs separate to your TV subscription and allows you to watch a game wherever you are in the world. There is a real need for high quality streaming from official sources but currently Sky offer

a streaming service only for Sky Sports subscribers - meaning you shell out £40 a month for the satellite service and get online streaming free.

Why not offer a streaming service for half the price to all non-subscribers? I'll tell you why not, because they are greedy. They've jacked up prices to business customers (i.e. pubs) to such an extent that many pubs where I live do not have football and the one's that do insist you buy at least two drinks (alcoholic one's) so they can at least make some money. This means that whilst Sky continues to see more and more people subscribe to their services, they will also lose out because there will be those customers who would rather use card sharing services or watch illegal streams. The poor sound and picture quality of some streams means this niche is ripe for the picking. Yes, some people will use an HDMI cable to watch on their TV but so what? It's still not the same as watching on the TV so it shouldn't be a direct competitor. It's time for TV companies to think outside the box.

Sources: sky.com
sky.de

Hate United, Love The Glazers
Ok so I don't hate United and I don't love the Glazers. But I do have a certain amount of admiration for them.



Kick back, relax and watch the stream in Japanese...

The decision by the owners of Manchester United to float 25 per cent of the company on the stock exchange in Asia went largely unnoticed last week. Now there are many fans who hate the Glazers for taking a debt-free football club and saddling it with an enormous burden. I am not one.

It is hardly their fault that the Premier League let them do this. The league has to have rules in place on excessive debt but the problem is some debt is good if the collateral is something valuable, like Manchester United. The fact is the Glazer's saw a business opportunity and took a risk (with £00 million of their own money), which

is what business is all about. They used some borrowed money to buy an undervalued asset and now they stand to make a fortune.

There is no doubt the Glazers will float more and more chunks of their stake in United. In all honesty, the debts of £500 million look a pittance when compared to United's value, which is estimated at £2.4 billion. Looks like Malcolm et al might be able to make the Red Devils debt free after all.

Source: The Press Association

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The Joeys in Ecuador in 1995

BLAST
FROM
THE PAST



With Roy Hay

The return of Harry Kewell to link up with Danny Allsopp at Melbourne Victory and Brett Emerton to Sydney the A-League in the upcoming season takes the mind back to their exploits with the Australian Under-17s in the World Cup in Ecuador in 1995.

The story begins a little earlier than that for the three players were also involved in the national under-15 championships played at Kim Reserve in Altona in September 1994.

New South Wales won the competition beating Victoria in the final.

The Victorians included Daniel Allsopp who will be a team-mate at Victory along with several former Socceroos or Young Socceroos—Simon Colosimo, Vince Grella, Rodrigo Vargas, John Maisano, Clayton Bell and Colin Azzopardi, while in the New South Wales' squad there were Brett Emerton, Adam Brodbeck, Sebastian Sinozic, Michael Cunico, Daniel Uchino and Yane Talcevski.

Virtually all of them went on to play for the Joeys in 1995.

Allsopp scored Victorias' goal in a three-one defeat with Uchino scoring twice for New South Wales.

Danny came off in tears having given his absolute all and I told him he would make it to the top because of what he had done and sacrificed in that game.

That particular episode confirmed one story that is very common among the superstars of the world game.

Kenny Dalglish, Craig Johnston, Joe Marston, Harry Williams and many more will tell you.

They all say that when they were young there were players with far more skill in the squad and certainly Kewell was not the star of the show in 1994, but obviously he had the determination and perhaps the little bits of luck at the appropriate times.

Les Scheinflug selected the bulk of his Joeys squad from the players who took part at Kim Reserve—Adam Brodbeck, Brett Emerton, Harry Kewell, Nickolas Johns, Colin Azzopardi, Sebastian Sinozic, Clayton Bell, John Maisano, Daniel Allsopp, Michael

Cunico, Jane Talcevski, Daniel Uchino, Michael Galluzzo, Nicola Rizzo, Chris Coyne, Luke Tomich, Ilija Prenzovski and Robert Matošević.

The Joeys were drawn in a tough group in Ecuador along with Spain, Nigeria and Qatar.

On 4th August, Australia drew two-all with Spain in its opening match.

Danny Allsopp opened after 16 minutes but when keeper Brodbeck was left exposed and brought down a Spanish attacker the resultant penalty by Duarte leveled the scores in 53 minutes.

Spain went ahead eight minutes after that through Miguel Serrer according to one report and Mista according to another.

John Maisano beat four men on a mazy run and laid the ball off to Allsopp for his second goal from close range in the 73rd minute. Earlier Michael Cunico had hit the post and the Joeys were unlucky not to win.

Several players went down with a virus, but it was a missed penalty by Maisano which was the turning point in the second match against Nigeria.

The Africans came to life after that and Edward Anyamkygh headed home with the aid of a deflection by Colin Azzopardi.

Kewell almost equalised with the double effort in 73 minutes as the keeper parried his first shot and the second just went wide.

Nigeria got a breakaway second goal in injury time through James Obiorah.

So Australia needed a good win in its final game and a favourable result in the other match between Nigeria and Spain.

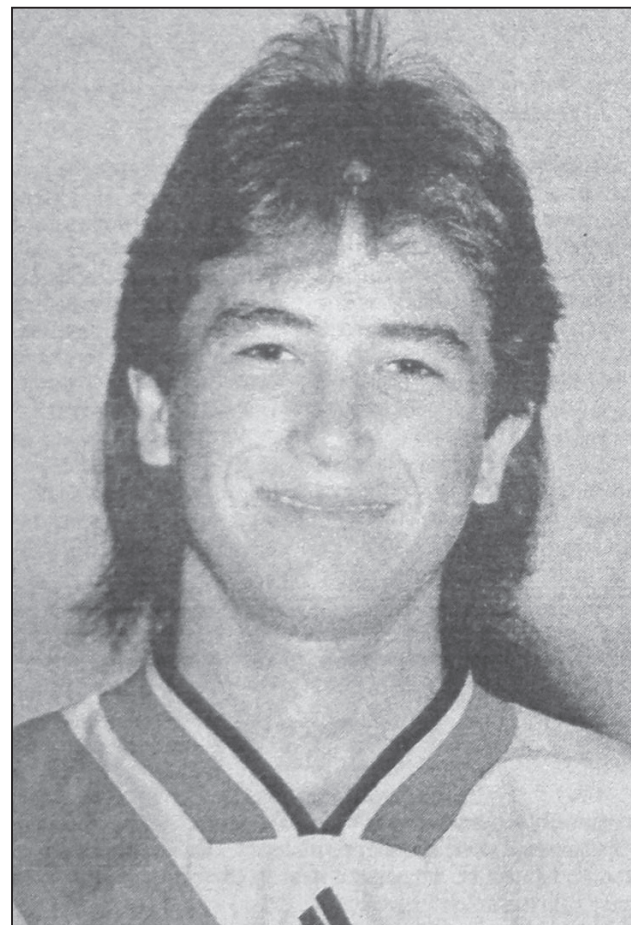
Kewell scored with the penalty just before half time and Danny Allsopp added two more in the 48th and 56th minutes, while Nigeria beat Spain two-one so Australia reached the quarter-finals. Les Scheinflug said Kewell was the man of the match.

Australia's opponent was Brazil which had topped its group without conceding a goal, and the South Americans proved too strong winning by three goals to one against the Joeys.

Seeds of a Golden Era



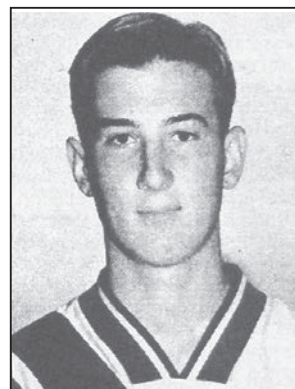
Danny Allsopp



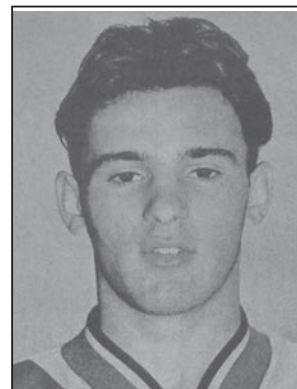
Harry Kewell



John Maisano



Sebastian Sinozic



Yane Talcevski

Headshots from Australian and British Soccer Weekly, 8, 15 and 22 August 1995.



The victorious New South Wales Under-15s. Kewell and his mullet and Emerton on the right in the front row. Photo: Roy Hay.

VOICE OF

Under 14 Final South Australia 1 Northern NSW 0
A last minute goal by Danny Vidakovic gave South Australia (above) victory in a closely fought match. The South Australian winning squad was: Fisher, Piscioneri, Udagawa, Cartwright, Mignone, Wright, Dodd, Sabljak, Reynolds, Vidakovic, Saj-rynes, Varricchio, Karamindis, Westervelt, Berlinger, Brklje.

National Junior Championships

A new-look Joey team will emerge from the recent Under 14 and Under 15 National Junior Championships. The very best of junior soccer talent was on show in Altona, Melbourne. SHOOT Australia was also there to witness some of the players who will hopefully qualify for the 1995 Under 17 World Youth Championship in Ecuador, next August.

Colin Azzopardi (above) leads the Victorian Under 15s as they collect their runners-up medals. The Victorian squad was: Beattie, Vargas, McPartlane, Azzopardi, Anderson, Kindtner, Grella, Bell, Carrozza, Allsop, Maisano, Paglia, Karamemis, Caniglia, Fargaglia, Gountaras.

Under 14 runners-up, Northern NSW (above), collect their medals after just losing out to South Australia. The Northern NSW squad was: Collier, Cootes, Hall, Kowalski, Bauer, McDougall, Walters, Lupton, Bownlie, Walsh, Zane, Mountain, Watson, Dunn, Gibson, Martin.

Under 14 South Australian captain, Aaron Westervelt (above), proudly lifts the Championship Cup.

Under 15 New South Wales captain, Daniel Uchino (above), receives the Championship Cup.

THE PARTICIPATING states at the National Junior Championships were: South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales State, ACT, Western Australia, Northern NSW, Queensland, New South Wales Country and the Northern Territory.
The 24-man Joey squad will assemble at Parklea next

Page from Shoot magazine on the tournament at Kim Reserve. All pics by Roy Hay.



PHOTOS: JULIE MALE

HYUNDAI QUEENSLAND STATE LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2011

Back Row (L to R): James Verdin (U19), Sam Knight, Leon Dwyer, Kaine Frew(U19) ,Greig Henslee, Ryan Smith, Shaun Blackman, Daniel King, Sam Nickolls;
Front Row: Goal Keeper Antony Hall, Aaron Brazendale, Kota Shibahashi, Alex Henderson, Jason Hicks, Tyson Holmes, Dylan Roberts, Gareth Musson, James Stinson.



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Sydney Olympic remains a point ahead of Sydney United going into the final round of the NSW Premier League after Bonnyrigg's Blake Powell scored a late equalizer at Belmore to bring the score to 1-1. With United trouncing Bankstown City 4-1 in this week's feature game, the stage is set for an enthralling finale, with United facing fellow finalists Blacktown at home, while Olympic host APIA, who have only pride to play for.

Elsewhere in the top five, Sutherland were surprisingly upended at home by the South Coast Wolves, a goal in the opening minute setting the scene for a 2-0 defeat. Blacktown City too suffered a surprise reverse at home, a late flurry of Manly goals producing a 4-2 defeat for the fourth-placed side. In the other fixtures, APIA and Marconi failed to trouble the scorers at Lambert Park while Rockdale gained a morale-boosting 1-0 away win over Parramatta.

Bankstown City 1-4 Sydney United
Sydney United kept their Premiership chances alive with a no-nonsense win over struggling Bankstown, whose relegation from the Premier League was thus finally confirmed.

In the opening ten minutes the sides were feeling each other out, with no chances created but United threatening to penetrate on the break once or twice. In the thirteenth minute, however, the visitors broke through with a goal to savour. Ufuk Talay lunged to retain possession in midfield, and the ball broke to Ben Vidaic; pivoting sharply on the ball, the former Sydney FC man sent a superb through-ball to the advancing Steve Hayes, who finished neatly from a tight angle.

Two minutes later it was the same two players involved, Hayes making ground on the right and feeding Vidaic, whose shot was held without much difficulty by Zlatko Joseski. Another lofted ball from Hayes to Vidaic forced Joseski into a crucial interception soon afterwards.



Saturday night at Perry Park was the scene of the 2011 Hyundai QSL Grand Final, a clash between competition heavyweights Brisbane Strikers and Sunshine Coast Fire. After fighting a season long battle for top spot in the league the participants came as no surprise, and the result shouldn't have come as one either, Sunshine Coast prevailing 1-0, winning a Grand Final at Perry Park for the third time in three attempts.

The result not only clinched the Grand Final but also gave the Fire the unprecedented distinction of having won the Hyundai QSL League-Grand Final double for two years in a row.

Brisbane could have no complaints about the defeat, unable to take several chances that came their way, only to see from Striker Gareth Musson score the winner for the visitors in the 77th minute.

The Strikers were boosted before the match with the announcement that Wellington Phoenix had agreed to allow Brisbane's star forward Matt Thurtell to return to appear in the match.

The move didn't look like paying off early as the first twenty

Thrilling Final Week In Prospect for NSW



High octane action from the NSW Premier League between Marconi and APIA. Photo: CARLOS FURTADO/ COURTESY FNSW

In the twentieth minute, with United completely dominating proceedings, Luka Glavas was gifted the ball deep in the Bankstown third, but his shot hit a divot in the turf and bobbled wide. Seconds later he was played in on the right again, and this time chipped a shot onto the top netting.

On 28 minutes, United went further ahead. A swift turn on the edge of the box by Luka Glavas enticed Blaz Dejanovic into a clumsy foul, and referee Kris Griffiths-Jones had no hesitation in pointing to the spot. Glavas himself buried the spot kick with the minimum of fuss.

The assault continued. A fine move involving Hayes, Ivo Bosnar and Vidaic ended with the latter skying a shot from a promising position, as United threatened to turn the match into an exhibition. Just before half-time, Bankstown

were dealt a cruel blow. Steven Krstevski had already received a yellow card for a harsh challenge, and when Glavas comprehensively outpaced him on the right the Bankstown left-back clattered into him unceremoniously. The second yellow was duly produced, and United now had a numerical advantage as well as the two goals.

Vidaic headed Bosnar's right-wing cross wide just after the restart. On 51 minutes the visitors made it three; a back-heel from Talay began an intricate move which reached Glavas in the centre. Laying the ball off unselfishly to Mitchell Thompson, the slender United forward must have been relieved to see his diminutive team-mate power a left-footed shot past Joseski. Moments later Thompson's deep cross from the left saw Glavas race forward to receive, and only a good block from Joseski prevented a fourth for United.

On 58 minutes, quite out of the blue, a Bankstown goal jolted their nonplussed spectators momentarily into life. Peter Peralta received the ball in midfield, scorned an easy layoff, and instead let fly at goal from 25 yards. Surprisingly, Janjetovic was unable to reach the shot before it buried itself in the near corner. Bosnar and Thompson, at one end, and Dejanovic at the other all had half-chances in a vivid passage of play soon after the goal.

Peter Markovic replaced the industrious Thompson as Jean-Paul de Mariigny attempted to blunt Bankstown's temporary initiative. The move almost paid off immediately, with a thundering left-footed shot from the United sub requiring a desperate interception from the home defence. At the other end, Bankstown spurned a golden chance when, with the United defence in disarray, David Gardiner played a sublime

ball through to Chris Bedzo. The Bankstown striker had an eternity to pick his shot, but Janjetovic still managed to save with his legs.

Joseski too had a chance to save with his feet when Vidaic crafted a chance for himself on 70 minutes. Elside Barkhousir, another United substitute, played Glavas in three minutes later, only for the latter to pull his shot wide.

Bedzo had another excellent chance on 78 minutes when an error by Michael Cindric allowed Sean Mitchell to release him in the inside-right channel, but again his shot lacked precision. On 81 minutes, Vidaic finally put the result beyond doubt with another goal that came from very little; receiving from the left, he found space to plant a shot at goal from 20 yards. Joseski was slow to react, and it was 4-1.

NSW Results

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE: ROUND 22:
FIRST GRADE: Blacktown City FC 2 (Luke Roodenburg 6m Travis Major 64m) Manly United FC 4 (Matthew Sim 21m Adam Foti 75m Graeme Forbes 84m Robert Cattanaach 87m), Bankstown City 1 (Peter Peralta 59m) Sydney United 4 (Steven Hayes 13m Luka Glavas 29m pen Mitchell Thompson 54m Benjamin Vidaic 82m), Sydney Olympic FC 1 (Chris Triantis 60m) Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 (Blake Powell 89m), APIA Tigers 0 Marconi Stallions 0, Sutherland Sharks 0 South Coast Wolves 2 (Nicholas Littler 1m Sean Robertson 45m), Parramatta Eagles 0 Rockdale City Suns 1 (Jason Naidovski 7m).

SUPER LEAGUE: FINAL SERIES: PRELIMINARY SEMI FINALS: FIRST GRADE: West Sydney Berries 1 (A Deur 41m) St George FC 0. **GRADE 20:** Spirit FC 1 St George FC 0.

DIVISION ONE: FINAL SERIES: PRELIMINARY SEMI FINALS: FIRST GRADE: Fairfield City Lions 1 (B Cronk 19m) Gladesville Ryde Magic 0.

Next Round

Sydney Olympic vs Bonnyrigg WE
Belmore Sports Grnd 3:00 PM Sun 28/Aug

Bankstown City vs Sydney United
Jensen Park 3:00 PM Sun 28/Aug

APIA Leichhardt vs Marconi Stallions
Lambert Park 3:00 PM Sun 28/Aug

Blacktown City FC vs Manly United FC
Lily Homes 3:00 PM Sun 28/Aug

Parramatta FC vs Rockdale City Suns
Melita Stadium 3:00 PM Sun 28/Aug

Sutherland Sharks vs Sth Coast Wolves
Seymour Shaw Park 3:00 PM Sun 28/Aug

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Sydney Olympic	21	12	5	4	37	26	11	40
2 Sydney United	21	11	4	6	38	22	16	39
3 Sutherland Sharks	21	10	6	5	28	26	2	35
4 Blacktown City FC	21	10	7	4	34	22	12	34
5 Bonnyrigg WE	21	8	4	9	32	22	10	33
6 Manly United FC	21	7	7	7	31	37	-6	28
7 South Coast W	21	8	10	3	32	35	-3	27
8 Marconi Stallions	21	6	7	8	27	22	5	26
9 Rockdale City	21	7	10	4	21	28	-7	25
10 APIA Leichhardt	21	6	10	5	24	33	-9	23
11 Bankstown City	21	6	12	3	28	44	-16	21
12 Parramatta FC	21	4	13	4	19	34	-15	16

Sunshine Coast Repeat Double Feat



A Fire attacking corner sees Leon Dwyer leaping high for a header. Myles Carseldine (#17) saves off the line. Photo: MICHELLE TOBIN

minutes of the match degenerated into sloppy play in the midfield, the rain-soaked playing surface causing some trouble as passes struggled to find their mark.

The action began to open up after the 22nd minute, Thurtell testing Fire keeper Antony Hall with a glancing header, Brendan White then called into action only minutes later to deny Jason Hicks.

Fire midfielder Leon Dwyer was next to get into the shooting action, trying his luck from thirty metres and producing a dipping shot that only just cleared White's crossbar.

Brisbane were now dominating possession and were denied twice

before the break by top-drawer saves from Hall. First turning away a vicious shot from Michael Angus at the last moment and then diving low eight minutes later to deny a low shot from Thurtell.

The teams went into the break with the deadlock unbroken after a half which saw few genuine goal scoring opportunities, the feeling at the ground being that whoever scored first would likely take home the trophy.

When the teams came back out it was the visitors who made the running over the opening five or ten minutes, winning a succession of free kicks as Ryan Mottin, who had kept Fire skipper Holmes ex-



Strikers Keeper Brendan White snatches a high ball off Shaun Blackman's head. Photo: ROBYN WOODALL

tremely subdued in the first half, found himself yellow-carded for a mistimed sliding tackle.

Sunshine Coast were soon again on the back foot though as Brisbane took the game to the visitors, attacking down the flanks, crosses and corners forcing some desperate defending from the visitors.

Mottin could only shake his head in disbelief as he failed to put one of the corners into the Sunny Coast net, a drifted corner from Chay Hews falling to an unmarked Mottin at the rear post only for the midfielder to put his header over the bar from at most two metres out.

The Fire answered with a break-

out that saw Holmes slide a pass in for Hicks who, under pressure from Ben Griffin, got in a shot that was comfortably saved by White.

Brisbane continued to look the more likely to score but were repeatedly frustrated by a resilient Sunshine Coast defence.

Fire coach Richard Hudson was forced into a change when it became apparent that Shaun Blackman was not going to be able to continue after injuring his knee after landing awkwardly. The injury would prove somewhat fortuitous as eventual match winner Gareth Musson came on as his replacement.

Only minutes later Musson would have his moment of glory. Holmes picked out James Stinson with an inch perfect pass before Stinson rounded Chris Maher and cut the ball back to a waiting Musson. From there Musson wasted no time, teeing up a shot from inside the left of the penalty area and slotting the ball past White and into the net.

At 1-0 down the home side redoubled their efforts, a panicked desperation creeping into their play at times as the struggled to find an equaliser.

Brisbane coach David Large introduced Jonti Richter and Jordan Mason into the fray but it proved to no avail as time ran down on Brisbane's title hopes and the referee whistled to signal that Sunshine Coast would once again be crowned QSL champions.

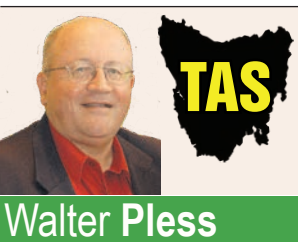
Fire captain Tyson Holmes was understandably ecstatic with the result, "It's an indescribable feeling," Holmes said.

"There was so much pressure on us this year – and with all the banter that's been going on between the two teams.

"To come here again and do this. This feels the best, definitely.

"The heart of the boys to battle the way we did – we were under the pump a few times. So were they, but to come out of it victorious. I can't believe it."

Southern clubs dominate Semi Final spots



South Hobart, New Town Eagles, Clarence United and Devonport City made it to the semi-finals of the State-wide Top-Four series on Saturday in Tasmania.

South Hobart easily accounted for Ulverstone 5-0 at KGV Park, while a hat-trick by Adam McKeown powered New Town Eagles to a 3-1 away win over Northern Tasmanian champions Prospect Knights at Prospect Park.

Clarence United downed Northern Rangers 3-1 away at the NTCA Ground through two goals by Kyu Jun Kim and one by Grant Malcolm.

Devonport City became the only Northern Tasmanian side to progress after overcoming Tilford Zebras 3-1 away at KGV Park.

In next Saturday's semi-finals, Devonport City host New Town Eagles at Valley Road, and South Hobart take on Clarence United at KGV Park.

Tilford Zebras seemed to be well in control against Devonport in the opening half but had just one goal to show for it at the



Tilford Zebras' Rickey Self crosses the ball into the danger zone against Devonport City. Photo: WALTER PLESS

interval.

That came in the 42nd minute when Ricky Self drove the ball low past Ryan Keep, who should probably have done better.

Zebras had several other chances that fell to Sam McIntyre, Luke Cripps, Jonathon Ladic, Dwayne Walsh and Jayden Welch.

Five minutes after the resump-

tion, Nathan Grattan put Devonport level when he converted a cross from the left.

Daniel McGinn tucked away a second for Devonport midway through the second half, while Zebras had a goal disallowed through off-side after Cripps had netted from Self's right-wing cross.

Chris McKenna made the game

safe for the North-West Coast side when he headed home a free-kick in the 74th minute.

The game was stopped for almost five minutes in the second half after referee Kim Barker was hit in the groin region by the ball. He went down in agony and took some time to recover.

"We were a far better team in the second half," said Devon-

port City coach, Tom McGinn. "In the last three games, we've played in the second half.

"Today, we were close enough but when we came out for the second half we were close enough to get there, so a proper second-half performance was brilliant."

Tilford Zebras coach, Romeo Frediani, said: "We should have won the game in the first half. We has so many chances. The boys played really well in the first half.

"In the second half, we knew they were going to come out hard, and they did. Our intensity, I think, dropped.

"I'm disappointed. The boys are disappointed. The season is over for us now."

It took South Hobart just 12 minutes to take the lead against Ulverstone, Liam Scott netting from Shae Hickey's mis-directed shot.

They almost added a second when Tom Roach fired just over the bar, while in the 34th minute, Ulverstone keeper Michael Grey did well to turn Hugh Ludford's powerful shot over the bar.

It was 2-0 in the 37th minute when Grey allowed Scott's shot to slip from his grasp and carry over the line.

Ben Foote was playing very well for Ulverstone and he almost scored from a 30-metre free-kick on the stroke of half-time, the ball just missing the angle of crossbar and post.

Former Ulverstone player Brayden Mann added South Hobart's third with a fine diving header from Jonathon Lo's right-wing cross, while Mann tapped home his second and South's fourth after a left-wing cross from Tom Roach left him with an open goal.

Ludford made it 5-0 when he ventured forward at a corner and drove home through a crowd of players from the edge of the box.

"The first two goals were scrappy, but the other three were quality," said South Hobart coach, Ken Morton. "A comfortable win in the end and a good work-out for us."

Ulverstone coach, Nick Owen, who is a former South Hobart player, said: "I'm disappointed with the result, but not with the effort.

"Our lads can take a lot away from that. We came here playing the best in South Hobart, and I'm certainly not disappointed with the effort."

In Southern League One, champions University drew 0-0 away against second-placed Taroona, while Hobart United thrashed Southern FC 9-1 away at Sherburd Park.

Mynonge Kamba hit a hat-trick for United, with Riak Dhienu netting twice and Adhar Ngor, Joseph Manarabu, Colin Banks and Wilson Kenyi once each.

Taroona took out the League One Reserves championship when they beat University 1-0.



Western Strikers advanced to the second week of the Top 5 Finals Series after eliminating Adelaide Galaxy 2-1 on Sunday. Meanwhile, on Saturday, Adelaide Blue Eagles stunned Adelaide City, thumping the champions 4-0.

At Carnegie Reserve, extra-time was needed to separate the two sides in the Elimination Final with Stephen McNeill scoring the winner late in the first extra period. Earlier, Callam Flanagan gave Strikers a first-half advantage, only for Galaxy to respond after the break through Lwandiso Cele.

Strikers Coach Aldo Maricic was confident his team could go on with the job as the match went to extra-time, despite having to go the distance for a second straight week.

"I felt confident we could do it with our younger legs," said Maricic.

"We are a fit side; this is one of our main assets. We started well but after we lost Ermais [Haile] to injury we lost the midfield. We reorganised, brought on a striker and played well in extra-time.

"I'm not sure what to read from the Adelaide City result, but they will be fired up after their loss. We are expecting a difficult match."

Strikers came close after 16 minutes when Jordan Spadavecchia's shot from close range was saved by Ryan Veitch and from the follow-up, Andreas Weins struck the post.

Strikers eliminate Galaxy as Blue Eagles stun City



Adam Mehicic scores for West Adelaide against South Adelaide in the State League Qualifying Final. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

A piece of Calvin Mbarga magic produced the opening goal. He beat two Galaxy defenders with one swift movement inside the penalty area and played the ball across to Flanagan, who steered it in from only a couple of metres in the 35th minute.

Strikers almost doubled their advantage ten minutes into the second half but Tom Maricic saw his header cleared off the line. Galaxy equalised in the 56th minute. The initial shot hit the woodwork but Cele was first to respond to level the match.

The visitors almost took the lead just two minutes later as captain Steve De Giovanniello saw his effort from distance thump the woodwork with goalkeeper Takumi Takahashi beaten.

Mbarga was the first to try his luck in extra-time as he hooked

a shot from close range over his head and just over the bar.

McNeill then eliminated Galaxy after he burst past one defender and slotted the finish across Veitch in first-half stoppage time.

Galaxy had one last chance but Tom Dittmar's 118th minute long-range crack was tipped over by Takahashi.

Best on ground for Western Strikers were Daniele Lastella, Spadavecchia and Yasmin Sudic. For Galaxy, Evan Metanovski, Dittmar and Tom Briscoe were the standouts.

At Adelaide City Park it was a day to remember for Kym Harris, with the young Blue Eagles striker netting all four goals in the Qualifying Final. Blue Eagles will now face MetroStars in the Major Semi Final, with Adelaide City facing a do-or-die contest

next weekend in the Minor Semi Final against Western Strikers.

Harris opened the scoring on the half-hour mark, with the second arriving ten minutes after the break. Two further goals late on sealed the emphatic victory.

Blue Eagles Coach Vojo Gluscevic was ecstatic with the win and the way the younger players stepped in and performed but warns there is still a long way to go.

"It was a fantastic result for us," said the tactician.

"We had six players suspended and the young guys came in, listened, and did their job superbly. It was a great win however we know there is a lot of hard work ahead. But, we want to go straight to the Grand Final and then have a week to prepare."

Harris first strike came via a Blue

Eagles attack down the left flank in which he received the ball inside the penalty area and was able to slot it wide of City custodian Luke Ostbye.

Adelaide City were caught on the counter-attack by Blue Eagles for the second, as a through ball found Harris, whose shot from outside of the area went past the despairing Ostbye.

City's goalkeeper will feel aggrieved the third went in after Harris' audacious long-range free kick squirmed underneath his body and into the back of the net in the 88th minute.

Just a minute later Blue Eagles sealed a memorable win with Harris making no mistake from a one-on-one against Ostbye.

Best on ground for Adelaide City were Matthew Mullen, Matthew Halliday and Jason Spangnuolo.

FFSA Finals Results - Week 1

DEVINE SUPER LEAGUE
Saturday August 27 – Qualifying Finals
Adelaide City 0 v Adelaide Blue Eagles 4 (Kym Harris 4) (HT 0-1)
Best – Adelaide City: Matthew Mullen, Matthew Halliday, Jason Spangnuolo; Adelaide Blue Eagles: not supplied
Reserves – Adelaide City 1 v Western Strikers 4
** Elimination Final
U19 – Adelaide City 3 v Para Hills 0

Sunday August 28 – Elimination Finals
Western Strikers 2 (Callam Flanagan, Stephen McNeill) v Adelaide Galaxy 1 (Lwandiso Cele) (HT 1-0) (FT 1-1) (AET 2-1)
Best – Western Strikers: Daniele Lastella, Jordan Spadavecchia, Yasmin Sudic; Adelaide Galaxy: Evan Metanovski, Tom Dittmar, Tom Briscoe
Reserves – Adelaide Galaxy 3 v Para Hills 0
** Qualifying Final
U19 – MetroStars 2 v Modbury 2 ** MetroStars won 5-4 after penalties

DEVINE PREMIER LEAGUE
Saturday August 27 – Qualifying Finals
Pirates 1 (James Coley) v Enfield City 4 (Joe Costa 2, Dimi Parhas, Srđjan Jovanovic) (HT 1-2)

Sunday August 28 – Elimination Finals
Cumberland United 2 (Alex Rideout, Robert Macdonald) v Adelaide Olympic 2 (Saranti Parrissos, Jai Pullinen) (HT 0-0) (FT 1-1) (AET 2-2)
***Adelaide Olympic won 5-4 after penalties
Best – Cumberland United: John Hall, Robert Macdonald, Jack Schoen; Adelaide Olympic: George Agalidis, Adrian Iandorio, Carl Robinson
Reserves – Cumberland United 1 v Adelaide Cobras 2
U19 – Enfield 0 v Cumberland United 2 **Qualifying Final

DEVINE STATE LEAGUE
Saturday August 27 – Qualifying Finals
West Adelaide 2 (Adam Mehicic, Harry Skoumbros) v South Adelaide 3 (Jordan Watson 2, Matthew Canny) (HT 1-3)

Saturday August 27 – Elimination Finals
Northern Demons 1 (Drew Champion) v Seaford 0 (HT 0-0)

FFSA Finals Series

Major Semi Final
Metro Stars
vs
Adelaide Blue Eagles
TK Shutter Reserve 2:30 PM Sat 3/Sep

Minor Semi Final
Western Strikers
vs
Adelaide City
T.B.A 2:30 PM Sun 4/Sep

Top five decided in the West



The Football West All Flags Premier League top five spots have been decided after this weekend's round 25 fixtures. League winners Balcatta, Perth SC, Sorrento, Western Knights and Inglewood United will take part in the end of season All Flags Top Five Championship Finals in two weeks time.

Inglewood United's 3-1 victory at the 6PR Stadium against Bayswater City, wrapped up their spot in the end of season finals. Former Perth Glory and Melbourne Victory midfielder Adrian Caceres gave the home side a perfect start on 14 minutes. He curled in a wonderful free kick from the edge of the penalty area, over the wall, and into the top right hand corner of the net.

After the break it was the home side that doubled their lead on 57 minutes. Substitute Jake Geddes, who had replaced Caceres midway through the first half, was left free to nod an in-swinging corner from James Sammut. But City hit back three minutes later, Inglewood keeper Oliver Taseski failed to hold on to John Kearney's free kick, allowing Andrew Reale to head home.

Bayswater lost Milan Mirkovic on 63 minutes, to a straight red card for an off the ball incident, and Inglewood made them pay with a third seven minutes later, David Perich heading

home at the back post.

It simply wasn't Bayswater's day and their miserable afternoon was summed up when Bryan McKeown's weakly struck penalty was saved by Taseski on 78 minutes.

League winners Balcatta had to settle for a 2-2 draw against Cup Winners Sorrento at Grindleford Reserves. The home side had led by 2-0 in the first half but Paul Price's side hit back to take a share of the spoils

The home side controlled the first half and went two up thanks to prolific strike duo Ash Rosindale and Perth Glory trialist Steve Burton. First on 11 minutes Paul Vatisstas cross evaded everyone, ricocheted off the post and was nodded into an empty net by Rosindale.

It was 2-0 just after the half hour, Daniel Micevski found space down the right, and he beat his man before whipping in a beautiful cross for Burton to volley home at the back post.

But the second half was dominated by Sorrento and they pulled one back on the hour, Jamie Harnwell's ball into the box wasn't dealt with by the Balcatta goalkeeper Lewis Italiano, and Adam Luca was on hand to curl home from the edge of the area.

They were level on 70 minutes, Jason Mirco firing home and they could have won it late on, but Danny Cain's shot crashed off the post.

Perth SC is limping into the end of season finals after being humbled 4-1 by already relegated Cockburn City at Dorrien Gardens. Former Perth striker Ian McMurray did the damage for the visitor's firing home a hat-trick, with Scott McCulloch scoring the other. Perth's consolation goal came from Greg Sharland.

It was a disappointing way to send off Perth SC legend Robbie Puca,



Lions' midfielder Andy Brown and Floreat Athena defender Julian Madaschi in action at Macedonia Park. PETER SIMCOX

who retired in midweek, he was carried off the pitch by his teammates to generous applause from the home faithful.

Western Knights wrapped up their spot in the top five finals with 4-2 win against Armadale at Alfred Skeet Reserve. Both sides are having off-field problems but on it the Knights couldn't have asked for a better start with Stuart Montgomery scoring in the first minute. But Armadale hit back immediately, Craig Robson free kick found Matt Barlow, who spectacular overhead kick gave Frazer Siddall no chance.

Barlow had his penalty saved by Siddall on 12 minutes and they were made to pay when Callum Roberts scored twice in a five minute spell. Barlow pulled one back for Armadale before half time but Roberts completed his hat trick on 64 minutes to wrap up the three points.

In the final Saturday game Mandurah City proved too strong for The Football West NTC squad, running out 3-1 winners. Ryan Townsend gave the home side the lead on 10 minutes, before Michael Grigo double it on the half hour. Aleks Jovic headed the NTC back in the game just before

half time, but Ivan Zuvela made sure of the win scoring two minutes into the second half.

In Sunday's game Stirling Lions ran out 3-1 winners against Floreat Athena at Macedonia Park. Phil O'Callaghan had given Doug Heskeith's side the lead on four minutes, before Damien Catalano levelled for the visitors seven minutes later. Boi's first goal regained the lead for the Lions before half time, and the former Perth Glory Youth player made it 3-1 on 67 minutes to win the game for the home side.

Canberra FC wraps up 20th League Title



Canberra FC have won their 20th League Championship after defeating Woden Valley 4-0 at Hawker Football Centre on Sunday.

Rob Graham has managed to keep good spirits in his side despite a mid-season form slump to win Canberra FC's 20th championship. The club is still the most successful Canberra club and will look to continue their form into the finals and win back-to-back trebles after they won the Federation Cup earlier this season.

Adam Spaleta scored the only goal of the first half as Canberra FC looked as if they had found that form from the beginning of the season. Coach, Rob Graham was extremely pleased with his sides' performance and will look to build on that for finals.

"We have got back to playing the football we have been known for. We were neat and tidy, safe at the back and obviously had the strength up front," Graham said. "The boys are very pleased with the 20th Championship and are now on a natural high going into the finals."

Canberra FC wrapped up the match with goals to Ivan Pavlak, John Glass and Daniel Bennett leaving Woden Valley with no hope as they now end there up and down 2011 campaign.

Who would finish fourth was



Victor Yanes steps through two Woden Valley defenders. Photo: NICK GUOTH

the biggest question asked this week and a Nikola Taneski goal has made sure Canberra City will finish fourth after they beat Canberra Olympic 1-0 at O'Connor on Sunday.

The Olympic had the better start to the match but it was in the 18th minute when Taneski found himself free at the top of the 18 yard box. Taneski's turn and shot did enough to fool Olympics defence and keeper as it rolled into the bottom left-hand corner.

The match was a battle of the midfield and it seemed that City had the upper hand but Oliver Wiederkehr showed everyone his pace and ball control bursting through the City defence but could not beat the out stretched City custodian, James Ward as

they went in 1-0 at half-time. After the half it was much the same as both City's Taneski and Olympic's Wiederkehr missed one on one opportunities as both keepers were on song.

A lack of discipline was letting Olympic down and when Robbie Deeley went in late for a tackle on Euan Peterkin he was shown his second yellow card and was forced to leave the field. Olympic still did not give up and Wiederkehr had another shot denied this time by the crossbar after he used his skill to get around the City defence.

It was City's day as they were able to secure that much needed three points and now will face a Belconnen United side that comfortably beat them 5-0 just last



John Glass (5 Canberra FC) challenges Simon Hinde (Woden Valley) with Ian Grahame (12 Canberra FC) looking on. Photo: NICK GUOTH

week.

At Riverside, Tuggeranong United finished the season with a 1-0 win away to Monaro Panthers.

Daniel Moutrey was the sole goal scorer as his 40th minute strike was enough for United to hold off a rampant Panthers side. The game was a close match with neither side being able to gain control of possession to create the vital chances. Both Tuggeranong and Monaro had just a handful of chances but did not utilise them as both defences were able to shut them out around the 18 yard box. Tuggeranong coach, Darren Vistovich was pleased with the win to finish off the season but knows his side will have to do some work if they want to com-

pete next season.

In Cooma, the fans were pleased to see their side grab a win in what was their final hit out of the year. Cooma needed City to loose in their match against Olympic to have any hope of finals but with that result going against them they did what they needed to do by beating the bottom side, Goulburn Strikers 6-1 at Nijong Oval.

Next weekend is the first week of finals and will see Belconnen United come up against Canberra City in the minor semi-final in what is a rematch of their Round 17 clash at Hawker Football Centre at 5pm. In the major semi Canberra FC face off against second placed Canberra Olympic at Deakin Stadium on Sunday at 5pm.

'Donate Blood' State League Cup Final

First Team

Inglewood United 3 (Caceres 14, Geddes 58, Perich 69) Bayswater City 1 (Reale 61); Armadale 2 (Barlow 2, 42) Western Knights 4 (Montgomery 1, Roberts 15, 20, 65); Perth SC 1 (Sharland 23) Cockburn City 4 (McMurray 33, 39, 85, McCulloch 53); Balcatta 2 (Rosindale 11, Burton 32) Sorrento 2 (Luca 62, Mirco 70); Mandurah City 3 (Townsend 10, Grigo 30, Zuvela 48) NTC 1 (Jovic 39), Stirling Lions 3 (O'Callaghan 4, Boi 31, 67) Floreat Athena 1 (Catalano 11).

Reserves

Inglewood United 0 Bayswater City 3; Armadale 1 Western Knights 3; Perth SC 2 Cockburn City 1; Balcatta 2 Sorrento 0; Mandurah City 1 NTC 2, Stirling Lions 4 Floreat Athena 1.

Under 18's

Inglewood United 1 Bayswater City 2; Armadale 3 Western Knights 0; Perth SC 3 Cockburn City 2; Balcatta 0 Sorrento 1, Stirling Lions 1 Floreat Athena 2.

Next Round

Cockburn City v Armadale SC
Dalmatinac Park 3:00 PM Sat 3/Sep
Floreat Athena FC c Inglewood United
E&D Litis Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 3/Sep
ECU Joondalup v NTC
Joondalup Football Strm 3PM Sat 3/Sep
Mandurah City v Stirling Lions
Hyundai Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 3/Sep
Western Knights v Balcatta SC
Nash Field 3:00 PM Sat 3/Sep
Sorrento FC v Perth SC
Percy Doyle Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 3/Sep
BYE v Bayswater City

All Flags WA Premier League

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Balcatta	21	16	1	4	41	21	34	49
2 Perth SC	21	12	1	8	40	33	7	37
3 Sorrento	21	10	6	5	35	27	8	36
4 Western Knights	21	10	5	6	36	31	5	35
5 Inglewood United	21	10	4	7	48	37	11	34
6 Bayswater City	22	8	7	7	41	40	1	31
7 Stirling Lions	21	9	3	9	40	38	2	30
8 Floreat Athena	21	7	5	9	35	38	-3	26
9 ECU Joondalup	22	8	2	12	27	42	-15	26
10 Armadale	21	7	2	12	35	45	-10	23
11 Mandurah City	21	5	4	12	20	31	-11	19
12 Cockburn City	21	4	2	15	29	54	-25	14

ACT Results

MPL: Canberra City 1 (Nikola Taneski 18')
Canberra Olympic 0
Canberra FC 4 (Adam Spaleta, John Glass, Daniel Bennett, Ivan Pavlak) Woden 0
Tuggeranong United 1 (Daniel Moutrey 45')
Monaro Panthers 0
Cooma Tigers 6 Goulburn 1 (Have no scorers for this match)

WPL: Weston Creek 5 (Lui Marzotto 10', 41', 84', Nic Somi 22' Rach Crittenden 75')
Canberra FC 0
Tuggeranong United 1 (Alex Lawrence) ANU WFC 0
Belwest 4 (Crocket 19', 66', Buckingham 52', Staniforth 90') Gungahlin United 0
Belconnen United 3 (Caitlin Munoz 13', 78', 87') Woden Valley 3 (Walters 15', 35', Stephanie Coates 50')

ACT Finals Series

Belconnen United (3)

v

Canberra City (4)

Hawker Football Centre

Saturday 3rd September

KO 5pm

Loser eliminated

Winner plays loser of 1v2

v

Canberra FC (1)

v

Canberra Olympic (2)

Deakin Stadium

Sunday 4th September

KO 5pm

Winner advances to Grand Final

Loser plays winner of 3v4

ACT Standings

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Canberra FC	16	14	0	2	77	20	+57	42
2 Canberra Olympic	16	12	2	2	59	18	+41	38
3 Belconnen United	16	9	3	4	53	30	+23	29
4 Canberra City	16	8	3	5	46	24	+32	27
5 Cooma Tigers	16	8	1	7	42	43	-1	25
6 Woden Valley	16	4	4	8	46	38	+8	16
7 Monaro Panthers	16	4	3	9	30	35	-5	15
8 Tuggeranong United	16	4	3	9	25	39	-14	15
9 Goulburn Strikers	16	0	0	16	8	154	-146	0

LEADING SCORERS

28 Dustin WELLS (Belconnen United)
17 Paul IVANIC, Victor YANES (both Canberra FC)
16 Mark SHIELDS (Monaro Panthers)
14 Misko NAUMOSKI (Canberra City), Alex OLORIEGBE (Woden Valley)
12 Domenic GIAMPAOLO (Canberra Olympic)



Alvaro Rodriguez's

Planet Football No.283 Cyprus

NAME: Cyprus
CAPITAL: Nicosia
POPULATION: (2010 approx. incl. Northern Cyprus) 1,088,503
CONFEDERATION: UEFA
FIFA WORLD RANKING: 80th

WHO ARE YA?
An island in the southeastern Mediter-ranean, Cyprus has been linguistically and culturally linked to the Greek main-land since ancient times. The island has been racked by political-ideological divisions: independence from Britain (achieved in 1960), enosis (unification with Greece) radicals and the fragile relations between the ethnic-Greek majority and the Turkish minority which resulted in the 1974 Turkish invasion of the island and their subsequent es-tablishing of the 'Republic of Northern Cyprus' as a homeland for Turkish Cypriots. Understandably all this has impacted on every facet of Cypriot life, and the country's footballing fortunes are no exception.

SO WHAT YOU DONE?
Despite being one of the stronger Eu-ropean minnows, Cyprus has never come close to qualifying for either the European Championship or the World Cup, although they have a history of providing the odd upset in their qualify-ing groups for both. Thus the country's greatest footballing achievement is pro-ducing the 1975/76 UEFA Golden Boot winner in Sotiris Kaiafas, who slotted in 39 goals for Omonoia Nicosia that sea-son to take out the honour.

HOT: In the words of that bloke from Broadmeadows on the telly, "WHAT A HUGE WEEK IT'S BEEN IN FOOTBALL!!" First Harry finally, at long last, signs for the Victory...and then virtually out of the blue Sydney FC announce a few days later they have snared Brett Emerton - a guy still much in-demand at Blackburn in the EPL! With the media attention bound to hit fever pitch as soon as the AFL & NRL seasons conclude, what can I say but BRING. IT. ON!!!

NOT: They may be a minority but there was still a number of alleged 'football fans' of Australian nationality using the news as 'proof' that they are 'washed-up' and that the A-League 'sucks'....'tis the downside of democracy I say, allowing idiots the right of speech. Oh well.



The hero turned traitor...
Michalis in Olympiakos colours

BIG CLUBS
Aside from the aforementioned Omonoia, Apollon Limassol and Anorthosis Fama-gusta (who this year celebrate their cen-tenary) also boast devoted followings; however in recent times it is Omonoia's bitter rivals APOEL who have flown the flag for Cypriot club football by virtue of their participation in the 2009/10 Cham-pions League group stage and repeating the feat this season, drawn in Group G with Porto, Shakhtar Donetsk and Zenit St. Petersburg.

REP YOUR COLORS
The Cypriot national team wears the colours of their Greek brethren (predomi-nantly blue with white), albeit sometimes with added amber as a deference to that colour featuring in the national flag (name-ly the map of the country that is the flag's key feature).

MATCHWINNERS
Aside from Sotiris Kaiafas, Cypriot football in the modern era boasts striker Michalis Konstantinou, who became a fan favourite at Panathinaikos in the motherland before defecting to mortal foes Olympiakos in the 2005/06 Greek Super League season. Yugoslav-born striker Siniša Gogić also plied his trade for the red & white half of Athens in the '90s, and is also remem-bered for scoring a brace in a crucial '98 WC qualifying win against Israel.

SO WHAT NOW?
With the national team still yet to harness its potential, it's up to the clubs such as APOEL to fly the flag for Cypriot football abroad. They can take inspiration from the mother country's Euro 2004 win how-ever, showing as it did that eventually all underdogs get their day in the sun.

WAG OF THE WEEK



Zahia Dehar Age: 20
Was offside with Franck Ribery (Bayern Munich)

Couch Potato Dept.
* ALL TIMES ARE AEST

SBS

SBS ONE
Monday August 29th
04:30 PM Futbol Mundial
11:30 PM The World Game

Sunday September 4th
10:30 AM Football Asia - Provides the latest news and updates of the various football leagues across Asia. (Sport)

11:00 AM Les Murray's Football Feature - Match highlights to be announced. (Sport)

12:00 PM Futbol Mundial - Weekly foot-ball magazine show that travels the globe to bring you the stars of today, the talents of to-morrow and the heroes of the past.

3i tv now!

The Futbol Town Show
Every Tuesday 7pm

Extra Time Magazine Show
Every Tuesday 7.30pm

SMFC TV
Channel 31
Every Wed 7pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday 10.30am

SETANTA SPORTS

Monday 29-Aug
Scottish Premier League Round 6 Hearts v Hibernian 3:10 AM 1st Airing
Ligue 1 Round 4 Lille v Marseille 4:55 AM LIVE
Primera Division Round 4 Boca Juniors v San Lorenzo 7:10 AM LIVE
Bundesliga Round 4 Schalke v Monchenglad-bach 9:15 AM 1st Airing
Ligue 1 Round 4 Toulouse v PSG 4:00 PM 1st Airing

Tuesday 30-Aug
Bundesliga Round 4 Hannover v Mainz 2:45 AM 1st Airing

Thursday 1-Sep
Copa Sudamericana 2nd Stage 1st Leg Lanus v Gordy Cruz 10:10 AM Live

Friday 2-Sep
Euro 2012 Qualifier Group F Israel v Greece 10:55 PM LIVE

Saturday 3-Sep
Euro 2012 Qualifier Group G Bulgaria v England 4:10 AM LIVE
Blue Square Premier Round 7 Stockport v Luton 7:05 AM 1st Airing
Primera Division Round 5 Teams TBC 10:10 AM LIVE
Euro 2012 Qualifier Group I Scotland v Czech Republic 11:55 PM LIVE

Sunday 4-Sep
Blue Square Premier Round 7 Braintree v Lincoln 7:45 AM 1st Airing

Monday 5-Sep
Primera Division Round 5 Teams TBC 7:05 AM LIVE

Wednesday 7-Sep
Euro 2012 Qualifier Group B Russia v Republic of Ireland 12:55 AM LIVE
Euro 2012 Qualifier Group G England v Wales 4:40 AM LIVE
Euro 2012 Qualifier Group I Scotland v Lithuania 7:00 AM 1st Airing
Euro 2012 Qualifier Group F Croatia v Israel 8:45 AM 1st Airing

one

Tuesday 30th August
02:30 am Manchester United V Arsenal
05:30 am FA Classics A Villa v Leeds 4th Round 00/01
06:00 am 500 Great Goals

Wednesday 31st August
02:30 am Liverpool V Bolton
05:30 am FA Classics Man U V Arsenal 4th Rnd 07/08
06:00 am 500 Great Goals

Thursday 01st September
02:30 am Bundesliga Kaiserslautern V Bayern Munich
04:30 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights Matchday 4

Friday 02nd September
05:30 am FA Classics Newcastle U V Man U
Semi Final 04/05
06:00 am Bundesliga Kaiserslautern V Bayern Munich

Saturday 03rd September
05:30 am FA Cup Classics Man U V West Ham 4th Rnd 2003
06:00 am Arsenal TV Manchester United V Arsenal
09:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights Matchday 4

Sunday 04th September
03:30 am The Magic Of The FA Cup Liverpool's Greatest Games
05:30 am FA Classics P'mouth V Leeds 4th Rd 98/99
06:00 am 500 Great Goals
06:30 am Liverpool TV Liverpool V Bolton

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Week 4
September 3-6.
No matches scheduled due to international fixtures.

Week 5
Sat Sep 10 Sunderland v Chelsea 11.53 pm
Sat Sep 10 Arsenal v Swansea 11.53 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Sep 10 Manchester City v Wigan 11.53 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Sep 10 Stoke v Liverpool 11.53 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Sep 10 Wolves v Tottenham 11.53 pm Viewers Choice
Sun Sep 11 Bolton v Manchester United 2.23 am
Sun Sep 11 Everton v Aston Villa 4.30 am DELAY
Sun Sep 11 Norwich v West Brom 10.23 pm
Mon Sep 12 Fulham v Blackburn 12.53 am
Wed Sep 13 QPR v Newcastle 4.53 am

FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIVE
Sat Sep 3 FL2: Swindon v Rotherham 9.00 pm Viewers Choice

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Is this the grand finale for Preston?



LAWTON Park threw Preston Lions a lifeline late last season but on Saturday it was a passive observer as the Macedonian-backed outfit slipped slowly into State League Two.

And the ramifications of that drop could be significant as the one-time National Soccer League outfit bravely tries to stare down a six-figure tax debt, a five-figure Football Federation Victoria fine and a dwindling number of supporters.

The once mighty Preston Makedonia is on its knees and for president Pece Siljanovski it is an unwelcome and hurtful sight.

Siljanovski is undecided about his own future at the club but he remains committed to trying to resolve its crippling financial problems.

Dealing with the Australian Taxation Office is the biggest of his worries. His club owes the ATO over \$100,000, a figure that only heads in one direction.

And early this month the FFV tribunal fined Preston \$15,000 for matters arising out of an under-15 away game against Yarra Jets.

On appeal last week that figure was lowered to \$14,500 albeit that a central figure in this affair is an as yet unidentified man wearing a blue top, a man that FFV has decided was a Lions supporter.

Has no-one told FFV that Macedonians wearing blue tops at soccer matches are a rare breed indeed?

At least there is a flicker of light at the end of Preston's long dark tunnel as the club may be able to negotiate a repayment schedule with the federation.

"If Preston comes to us and works with us to establish their need to arrange a payment extension and if they can show us that they want to deal with a culture of inappropriate behaviour then things can be put in place to help the club pay its fine," said FFV CEO Mark Rendell.

"But we don't simply give clubs payment extensions for extension's sake.

"Clubs have to demonstrate a willingness to change and perhaps the best recent example of that is St Albans.

"They have been able to demonstrate to us their willingness to change. St Albans put a new committee in place, new processes, a lot of training and an education process and we put in place a scheme of repayment and they have been a model club ever since."

And I bet many of you thought you'd never see the words "St Albans" and "model club" mentioned in the same breath.

Lyndale pays heavy price

ANOTHER club staring down the fines barrel is relegated Provisional One South-East outfit Lyndale United, slugged \$6500 recently for the actions of an under-14 player and a coach.

"We've put in an application for a payment extension after being briefed by FFV," said club president Matt Thurbon.

"The lady I spoke to at FFV was really helpful and explained the situation to me. I think if we demonstrate that we are holding functions to raise the money then I don't think that there will be a problem," he added.

But there is an obvious problem with any no tolerance policy. It often means that there can be no mitigating circumstances.

For example, the circumstances that could surround an under-14 Afghan boy with no father in his family who may be an unwitting and ongoing victim of difficulties in assimilating into this society.

How anyone in their right mind could place the onus on an amateur football club to deal with these issues beggars belief. All the local club does is give such a person the opportunity to participate in our sport and surely that in itself is a step forward in that person's integration into our society.

But that's what our policy does. It demands that a club such as Lyndale United be fully responsible for the actions of any of its registered participants irrespective of the individual life circumstances of these participants.

As things stand, teenager Kashefi Rashim can start participating in our sport again on 31 December 2021.

Maybe Lyndale will have just about paid off its FFV debt by then.

Scotland names Irvine

JACKSON Irvine has been included in a 25-man under-19 training squad named last week by Scotland national youth teams coach Billy Stark.

The squad will go into camp at Sportsscotland National Centre Inverclyde in Largs from 12-13 September.

This is Irvine's chance to grab a



Preston Lions president Pece Siljanovski (second from left) at Lawton Park on Saturday. Photo: DARRYL KENNEDY.

spot in Stark's squad to go to Slovenia to play against Belgium, Wales and the host nation in Group 8 of the 2011/12 UEFA under-19 qualifying tournament.

Those games will be played from 21 to 26 September.

The squad named by Stark last week contains only Scottish-based players. He's already had a close look at lads playing in England, notably Jamie MacLaren from Blackburn Rovers.

Both Melbourne teenagers, MacLaren and Irvine, recently accepted offers to make themselves available for Scotland after being overlooked by Australia.

Although Irvine is named among the midfielders invited to the training camp the Celtic under-19s captain has been playing as a central defender lately.

It's a busy time for the former Frankston Pines player. He not only has league commitments with Celtic he also is involved in The Next-Gen Series, an under-19 tournament styled on Champions League lines and featuring 16 European clubs.

Celtic is in Group 1 alongside Marseille, Barcelona and Manchester City. Group 2 comprises Liverpool, Sporting Lisbon, Wolfsburg and Molde. Group 3 consists of Ajax, Fenerbache, Aston Villa and Rosenborg and Group 4 comprises Inter Milan, Tottenham, PSV Eindhoven and Basle.

Results so far: Marseille 1 Celtic 0, Liverpool 0 Sporting Lisbon 3, Basel 2 Tottenham 2, Ajax 2 Aston Villa 0, Molde 3 Wolfsburg 1.

The NextGen website is at www.nextgenseries.com and has facebook, Twitter and YouTube links.

Another one bites the dust

SEAN Burton finished up on Friday as Football Federation Victoria Communications Manager.

I can't confirm the figure but I believe that he is the fifth FFV media person to resign in as many years. Burton has an impressive media background and after a couple of weeks break he will return to that field.

I've often wondered whether there is an issue of work-life balance attached to some FFV roles.

I remember staring at my monitor in disbelief last year when a media release arrived via email at 11.07 pm on a Friday night.

It had been sent by Burton's predecessor, Mia Hayes, and when I contacted her to ask why she was still working she said quite matter-of-factly that it was part of her job.

It's a strange job though. You have to admire any intrepid soul that can drive many kilometres into the country on a lovely summer's day to witness an under-age Champions League clash alongside parents and a handful of bemused locals then convert the experience into glittering prose.

Goodness me. The very thought of being forced to use so many superlatives makes me shudder.

But nothing ventured nothing gained and the next batch of starry-eyed information overseers to step into the breach are two high-energy young men in Callan McDuff and Christian Layland.

They are FFV's communication coordinators and a replacement for Burton is yet to be announced.

Let's wish McDuff and Layland well. I hope they find their roles both challenging and rewarding and I hope that they can defy a re-



Langa's Caleb Nicholes plants one past Preston keeper Hamid Kamali. Photo: DARRYL KENNEDY

cent trend.

I spit on your face, Sandy!

JOE Mottola and footballchaos.com have combined to produce a funny bit of footage for grassroots football aficionados.

The former Sandringham player may become the president of "the biggest club in Bayside", his cheeky reference to Beaumaris being tantalisingly close to promotion to State League ranks for the first time in its 35-year history which would make it the area's highest ranked senior club.

The 20 August clash at Beaumaris Reserve between the home team and Old Melbournians ended in a 1-1 draw and footballchaos.com provides excellent video coverage of this contest.

At the end of the match highlights up bobs Mottola's head as he gives viewers a guided tour of the lamb

on the spit he's arranged for the day.

Asked why he was so enthusiastic about flogging lamb rolls for \$7.50 a pop he told me:

"My club thinks it's all about the football but I'm in this to obliterate all those Greeks and Croats that have had a monopoly on good food for years.

"I'm gonna take my bunch of Scots and Poms to new heights at Beaumaris. Four years as prez now and the spit is the biggest thing I've done."

I suggested to Mottola that the Scottish contingent might hit back with Scots' sausage but he was dismissive of my remark:

"I don't care what Harry Duffy and the rest of them say, there will be no Scottish crap on our barbecue. Ever."

Go to www.footballchaos.com to view the Mottola cameo.

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Ansell Fits Like a Glove at Victory



Melbourne Victory already have their hands on one of the next up and coming Central Defenders Nick Ansell. Victory signed Ansell up to a professional contract at only 16 which means this kid means business.

Nick Ansell was born on the 2nd of February 1994 in Melbourne and was the first 16 year old to be signed by Melbourne Victory. Nick a Centre Back signed with Victory before the start of the 2010/2011 season but despite not making his debut he hopes to make his debut in the upcoming A-League season.

Nick had major setbacks during the past season or two with Stress Fractures on his lower back and a severe ankle injury. This ankle injury was the downfall on his chances making the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) squad as he wasn't fit and prepared for the AIS trials as he missed six months of Football.

Lucky enough for Nick Melbourne Victory gave him an opportunity of a lifetime and only after a couple training sessions. Melbourne Victory must of have been impressed with what they saw as Nick was also registered for the senior squad despite not making onto the pitch. Under A-League rules each club must have three Under 21 players registered for their senior team.

Despite not making any senior appearances Nick played 11 games for Melbourne Victory's Youth team in the National Youth League (NYL) and 9 games for Victory's affiliate Victorian Training Centre (VTC) in the Victorian Premier League (VPL). Nick remains hopeful that he would make his debut this season in the A-League under Mehmet Durakovic who coached him in the NYL. This is very possible with Melbourne Victory's senior team tight on Defenders with captain Adrian Leijer, Rodrigo Vargas and Petar Franjic as the only know Centre Backs on the books. Injuries to those key players could give Nick a chance.

Nick also made the Australian Joeys squad for the Under 17 World Cup in Mexico 2011 with follow Goal! Weekly Rising Star Hernan Espindola. Despite not making any appearances in Mexico he was honoured to be selected. An AIS dominated side Nick was one of only a few who were not based at the AIS with the Head Coach Jan Versleijen.

Nick's football career started at Doncaster Rovers as he came through the junior teams at Anderson's Park before moving to Box Hill when he was 10. After three seasons at Box Hill United Nick moved onto FC Bulleen where he only stayed for six months before accepting a scholarship with the Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS) when he was 14. While with the VIS he captained the VIS team to a State Under 14s Championship and also captained the Under 16s who travelled to France and Germany.

Nick also had a difficult choice like a lot of young Australian boys. To choose between two Football codes. Nick was also a great Aussie Rules Footballer. He won the Best and Fairest Award while playing for clubs like VFL side Northern Bullants, St. Mary's Football Club and Beverly Hills. It was his father who pushed him towards Football or Soccer as he thought he would get less injured. A move that looks like might pay off.

Nick and I sat down for a nice chat to

talk Football, Melbourne Victory, AIS and even Harry Kewell and much, much more.

DQ: Earliest Football Memory:
NA: I remember going down to first session down at Doncaster Rovers. They gave me one of those soccer balls that was attached to a string tied around itself. I remember kicking that first time and that's when I really fell in love with soccer and that's when I thought that this is the game.

DQ: Football idols:
NA: It would have to be Lucas Neill at the moment because it's just the way he shows his leadership on the field and demands the back line. Its keeps you in control. Yeah Lucas Neill for sure. Also will be Kevin Muscat because I've been around him for the last year. It's just the way he goes about his Football and in training just how he teaches the young kids what to do, he's a real help and he is a real idol to me.

DQ: Goal in Football career:
NA: My goal would be to make it in the A-League first of all then hopefully go overseas and then play in the English Premier League.

DQ: Any particular club in the EPL?
NA: Liverpool.

DQ: What made you want to play Football?
NA: I'm not sure really. Can't even remember. I don't even remember, I just started playing. The person that got me started into playing Football would be my next door neighbour Sam Pilla who brought me and my best mate Joel Pilla down to go and train at Doncaster Rovers and he really got me started off playing Football.

DQ: What are your strengths?
NA: My long balls and my tacking and aerial presence.

DQ: What are you weaknesses?
NA: Left foot and communicating.

DQ: Are too quite?
NA: Just when I give messages I could be a bit more clearer in what I mean.

DQ: How well do you think you have done this past season in the VPL and NYL?
NA: Last season I wasn't too happy at start because I had a couple injures with stress fractures and that before the start of the Youth League. Set me back a bit during the first part of the season but as I got down towards the end or middle I started playing well which I'm pretty happy with how I ended up playing throughout the season. But the first-half like I said I wasn't too happy with.

DQ: Where was the stress fractures?
NA: Just in the lower back.

DQ: Are you passed the stress fractures or do you still have problems?
NA: Nah I'm Past them now. It's all good.

DQ: Do you do anything different or special in training to improve as a player?
NA: I think everyone can do something different to improve in training. Just I think you have to just behind some of the training you do you have to go home and practice your passing or your long balls or your touch or whatever. But yeah there is plenty to improve on to help you in training for sure. But I think after training is when you have to really apply yourself if want to make it to EPL or something someday.



The up and coming Nick Ansell holds high hopes for the new A-league season ahead.

DQ: Do you do anything different or special in training to impress the coach/manager?
NA: Nah, I wouldn't say so. I go about my business, do my best. That's about it. Think that's all you can really give to the coach. They are really not looking for anything else.

DQ: Do you feel pressure to perform?
NA: Sometimes I do but most of the time I just do it because I love sport and I enjoy playing it. There is always that pressure that comes with being a Centre Back. I never once think about it when I'm out there. So ill say no.

DQ: You were unfortunately unavailable to trial for the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) you must be pleased that Melbourne Victory gave you a chance?
NA: Oh yeah definitely. I thought if I went to AIS they would have made me a better player as well but I was really lucky to get a chance to go to a couple of Victory trainings and then I was lucky enough for them to sign me up. I thought AIS I wasn't happy with but yeah I was really lucky Victory came along and picked me up.

DQ: Why weren't you happy with AIS?
NA: It was just that I went up to AIS for about three days because I did my ankle and was out for about six months. This was when I was about 16. And I came back and within about two weeks of the six month break I went up to AIS. Was not really ready for the trial. Went up there didn't play my best. Of course they were not going to pick me because I didn't do my best. I just wasn't too happy with myself. Just disappointed.

DQ: You were the first 16 year old to sign a professional deal with Melbourne Victory. How do you feel about that?
NA: Ah yeah it was an honour signing with Victory. I never thought as a young boy I'll be signing with Victory before I'd even finish school or even signing with Victory in any time of the future. I was really proud to be given the chance to sign with them. I was over the moon.

DQ: Are you happy with your current club situation?
NA: Very happy. The new coaching staff are really good. I've been coached by Mehmet Durakovic for a while now and he really looks after me. So I am very happy with the situation at the moment.

DQ: Despite being only 17 you have played 9 games for VTC in the VPL and 11 games for Victory in the National Youth League. You must be pleased with the amount of game time?
NA: It could have been better, I was away with Joeys team for about a month during the season, which would have put me out for about four or five games which is a big kinda way with the Joeys because it was an honour . I think I could have got a lot more game time because I had injuries and that coming back from the back. But I am hoping this year I'll get more game time.

DQ: Mehmet Durakovic is the new coach now for the senior team at Melbourne Victory. Since you played under him in the youth team you must be pleased with that?
NA: Oh yeah I was rapped for Mehms to get. He has been coaching me for about two years. So couldn't be any happier with him taking over.

DQ: Unfortunately you didn't get on for Melbourne Victory's friendly with Boca Juniors. You must be disappointed with that?
NA: Yeah it was disappointing but like I said before it's an honour to be on the bench at 16 years of age against Boca Juniors who are a massive club overseas. Overwhelmed to be on bench to be honest.

DQ: Unfortunately you didn't get on for Melbourne Victory's friendly with Celtic either. You must be disappointed with that?
NA: Yeah I was on bench. Everyone wants to get on and play but yeah that's what happens I guess.

DQ: You unfortunately couldn't get onto the pitch at the u17 World Cup in Mexico. Why do you think that was?
NA: I dunno I thought I played some of the best Football in a while and I thought I had a good chance of playing. Some of the boys told me why I wasn't playing and that and I guess it's the coaches didn't like the way I played or preferred the other Centre Back but yeah that's the coaches decision really. Of course I wanted to play I mean I was dying to play but yeah it's the coaches decision.

DQ: Who do you think you would have been partnered with? Connor Chapman or Tom King?
NA: I think if I came on I would have been partnered with Chapman because Chapman was the captain and he is a great player. Thought I would have been partnered with Chapman. Obviously because he was captain and they are not going to substitute the captain unless he has any injuries or issues.

DQ: What did you learn at the under 17 World Cup?
NA: Learned a lot of things. Just the experience was great a great learning curve. All the fans coming up to you, the security in the hotels. This is how the full time professionals overseas travel and that. Not playing and that I learnt that it's not the end of world. You got to move on with it. It's also luck with what happens during the games and that. Yeah that's pretty much it.

DQ: What are you hopes for this upcoming A-League season?
NA: It will be good to make debut in the Hyundai A-League. But also my goal is just to play the best Football I can. And get as much game time as much as I can, stay Injury free.

DQ: You must be pleased with Harry Kewell signing?
NA: Yeah from all these years I've been watching on TV and thinking in a couple weeks I'll be training with him. It's just going to be a great experience just watching childhood hero on TV and now he is playing on the same team as you. It couldn't get much better to be honest.

DQ: You are also good at Aussie Rules Football. Why did you choose the world game?
NA: I won a few best and fairest awards for my club. I Came second in my league's best player when I was a young kid when I was around 12. But all the training with soccer, I just enjoyed the round ball a lot better than the Football. Dad thought I'd get hurt too much in Football as well so he guided me to soccer and then I thought that is the sport I wanted to play. Yeah my Dad helped me on that decision. Yeah I am really happy with the decision we made.

Many Thanks for your time and best of luck with the future. Thanks also goes out to Melbourne Victory for their support.

Rising Star Updates

Melbourne Heart Reportedly Select National Youth League Squad
Melbourne Heart have reportedly selected their first squad for their debut season in the National Youth League (NYL).

With the NYL to start in October to run alongside the senior A-League season Melbourne Heart have chosen a squad of players after hundreds of youngsters from Australia trialled with Heart. These trials were done at Heart's training base La Trobe University in Bundoora over the past few months.

One of those reported players to have signed is Philip Petreski. Philip was interviewed and selected as Goal! Weekly's Rising star a couple weeks ago and was very hopefully of landing a contract with the club he supports, Melbourne Heart. Football Federation Australia's (FFA) decision to expand the A-League with another Melbourne team has given the opportunity for more young Victorian footballers to have a professional Football career. Philip Petreski a versatile Left Sided player is reportedly one of possibly 20 or 25 players who has be selected for Melbourne Hearts inaugural NYL squad.

It seems after a long process of trials and selection Melbourne Heart have finally picked their squad. These boys will have a sense of relief but might also feel disappointed or ecstatic for being or not being selected.

Melbourne Victory Putting Together Their Youth Squad

Melbourne Victory have reportedly offered contract to a few Victorian youngsters. All these youngsters have been with the Victorian Training Centre (VTC) for that past Victorian Premier League season (VPL). Or in Hernan Espindola's case at the Australian Institute of Sport. These players reportedly include Goal! Weekly interviewees Hernan Espindola and Christopher Cristaldo. Hernan and Christopher were both asked in their interview about the possibility of signing with Melbourne Victory and they were both open to a move. Both have been training with The Victory over the past few weeks.

Dado Lokvancic is also rumoured to have been offered a deal. Dado a forward has been playing and training with Victory during the pre-season. He even came on during Victory's 5-1 demolition of VPL side Springvale White Eagles and had a goal ruled out for offside. Dado also came off the bench to play against Celtic in July. A sign that Victory are interested in his services.

Midfielders Paulo Retre and Jake Nakic too has been rumoured to be offered a deal by the A-League side. Paulo captained the VTC side in the second half of the VPL season and had a number of impressive performances. Jake however has been injured for the last four months. But impressed when was available at the start of the campaign. Jake must be something for Victory to offer him a deal while still injured.

All these five boys except for Hernan Espindola have been with the Victory Youth team for all or some of last season. These boys must of impressed to been offered deals once again.

It's a great opportunity for these young boys to be offered contracts and it one would assume that they are being offered deals for the National Youth League (NYL) which starts in October. The big question that remains is why are Melbourne Victory offering contract out to young players when they have no NYL coach?



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Monday 29th August 2011

By Craig MacKenzie

MARC Olsen lists Daniel Agger, Johan Elmander and a host of internationals among his former Brøndby teammates yet remains a virtual unknown over here.

Not to Port Melbourne Sharks fans and followers of State One clubs who have watched their teams try and usually fail to curb the immensely gifted former Danish youth international.

But we don't have long to sample his talents for the 25-year-old midfielder is set to fly back to Copenhagen on 20 September and is no certainty to return.

"I am going to keep an open mind about coming back and if I got an offer I would take it very seriously," said Olsen, speaking to me from Sydney where he'd taken his girlfriend for a short holiday.

He was in good spirits as the night before he'd laid on the ball for countryman Niclas Ronne to end his stint at Port in style, signing off with the winner against Kevin Muscat and Sunshine George Cross.

"It was Niclas's last game. He's going back to Denmark now so it was good to assist him for the goal.

"Really I'm over here by accident because I was studying (economics) at university when Niclas contacted me and asked me if I'd like to come over."

For Port the stars had aligned in more ways than one. For the first time in years Olsen was not on a full-time contract and jumped at the chance of joining his friend and former teammate in a new environment.

And Port's Danish experiment has succeeded as first Ronne and then Olsen both made their mark as the club draws closer to a return to Victorian Premier League ranks.

"I don't think anyone knows me over here but I've noticed in the past few games that they seem to be marking me much more," said Olsen.

Opponents have good reason to mark him for Olsen has an excellent first touch, weights his passes well and can create a chance in the blink of an eye.

For him it seems like the most natural thing in the world.

"I've had a ball at my feet all my life. As far back as I can remember."

The Copenhagen native played for a local club in Vanlose until he was 13 when he joined Brøndby's football academy.

He was a striker back then but by the time he was playing at under-15 level he'd become an attacking midfielder or left winger.

"When I was 14 I was training every day. I got into the under-15 national team and played every single game for the national team over the next four years."

Olsen was now 18 years old and trained with the first team under Danish legend Michael Laudrup.



Port Melbourne import Marc Olsen has taken State One by storm in recent weeks. Photo: DANIEL FLIS.

He was going through the Brøndby system and was on the verge of making his senior debut when he suffered a groin injury.

"I just thought that it was nothing at the start but it didn't improve and we couldn't figure out what it was.

"All they could tell me was to take it easy. I took up yoga and eventually it went away."

But Olsen was out of action for almost a full season.

He returned to a Brøndby squad now under the guidance of Dutchman Rene Meulenstein, current first team coach at Manchester United, and on 5 November 2006 Olsen made his first team debut against local rivals FC Copenhagen in front of a sell-out crowd of 40,000.

"It was a huge match, easily the biggest experience of my career. I thought I did well. I played for about 65 minutes."

The following season started well for Olsen and he broke into the

starting line-up more often.

He'd made four starts and was confident of making further inroads on gaining a starting spot when his groin injury flared up again.

"I was out for six months this time. It was terrible. I was about to negotiate a new contract when this happened and the club said that they'd have to wait and see if I recovered.

"They gave me surgery for a hernia and they cut the nerves so that I wouldn't feel so much pain. It was reasonably successful."

Olsen's contract expired and needing game time to get back into shape he needed to move.

In 2008 he joined SønderjyskE in First Division on a six-month deal. SønderjyskE won promotion to Superliga but Olsen still wanted more game time so he joined First Division Hvidovre IF that same year.

"When I joined Hvidovre I met up with a physio who could cure this injury that I had. He cured me with just a few treatments so now I know what therapy is needed and after just one treatment it's great."

Olsen had a three-year contract with Hvidovre and when he joined the club had just seven full-time pros.

"At the end of my contract last season I was the only full-time player left. It's very unfortunate for the club but when the world financial crisis hit many sponsors left and the club could not afford to have so many players on contracts."

Olsen decided to go to university and although two First Division clubs approached him this year he decided to knock back their offers of full-time football.

"Right now my goal is to combine university with football. That may not always be possible but that's what I'd like to do for the moment."

And how has he fitted in at SS Andersen Reserve under player-coach Eric Vassiliades?

"It still feels like I've only been here for a really short time but I'm very glad that the club appreciates me and my game. That means a lot to me.

"We have talked about me coming back and I have told them that I'd love to come back but right now there are some obstacles there with my university.

"But I have enjoyed my football here. I think I can bring something that maybe not too many Australian players have because there is a strong technical aspect to my game.

"I can take on defenders, dribble, pass the ball and create chances. These are the things I enjoy and I think Eric and Port Melbourne like that too."

They sure do and take it from me they're not the only ones.

VPL clubs are circling already with at least two other Greek-backed outfits highly impressed by Port's great Dane.

Vassiliades and the Port Melbourne committee will have pulled off a minor coup if Olsen turns out in the Sharks' colours next season.





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FULL NAME: Jason Hicks
BIRTHPLACE: England
BIRTH DATE: 16/01/1990
HEIGHT: 5' 8"
WEIGHT: 68kg
MARRIED: Not yet
CAR: Mitsubishi EVO
NICKNAME: Hicksy
PREVIOUS CLUBS:
Waitakere United (NZ), Waikato FC (NZ)
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS:
New Zealand Under 17 & Under 20
INDIVIDUAL HONOURS:
NZ U19 Player of the Tournament
TEAM HONOURS:
6th grade to 12th grade winners
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO:
Maradona
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Messi
FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER: Matt McKay
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO:
Craig Moore
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO:
Timmy Cahill
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER:
ER: NZ Under 17 playing against Brazil in the U17 World Cup
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN:
All Whites v Bahrain WC 2010 qualifier
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: Scoring from halfway
EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: Down to my first training
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL:
Too many to mention
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT:
Not qualifying for Under 20 World Cup
WORST INJURY:
Lower back
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Rafael
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND:
North Harbour Stadium, NZ
SUPERSTITIONS: None
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Subway
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS:
Left foot
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES:
Right foot
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP:
Man Utd
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS:
Tag rugby, touch rugby
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON:
Tiger Woods
FAVOURITE FOODS: Mum's roast dinners
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS:
Mark Walburg / Ashton Kutcher
HOBBIES: Golf, gym
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT:
Mangawhai Heads, NZ
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: Auckland
IDEAL DATE: Dinner, movie, bed
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS:
Two and a Half Men, Jersey Shore
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Hip hop
FAVOURITE FILM: Transformers
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT:
Man Utd 2003/04
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: Too many to mention
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER:
Mum and Dad
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER:
When the ball goes out
HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE GAME:
The game is perfect as it is
ADVICE TO YOUNGSTERS:
Train hard, play harder
FOOTBALL AMBITION:
Play in the A-League
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? :
Tiger Woods
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S HAL:
Brisbane Roar to do the Double



Sunshine Coast Fire FC

JASON HICKS

Jason with the QSL Championship trophy after the Sunshine Coast Fire defeated Brisbane Strikers 1-0 in the Grand Final on Saturday night.

PHOTO: NEV MALE

Victorian State & Provisional Leagues - Round 20

State & Provi Round 21 Fixtures

Seniors

STATE SOUTH EAST 2

Reserves

Doncaster Rovers 1 Casey Comets 0, Eastern Lions 0
Dandenong City 1, Noble Park Utd 1 Morwell Pegasus 4,
South Springvale 2 (Own Goal 2) Knox City 3 (A Jerez P
Ajao S Henry), Malvern City 0 Diamond Valley Utd 1 (AJ
Hammer), Box Hill United 0 Heatherton Utd 2

Dandenong City 3, Noble Park Utd 0 Morwell Pegasus 4,
South Springvale 4 Knox City 1, Malvern City 0 Diamond
Valley Utd 2, Box Hill United 4 Heatherton Utd 2

P W D L F A PT

20 15 2 3 47 15 47

Malvern City

20 13 0 7 44 32 39

Box Hill United

20 10 6 4 32 20 36

Knox City

20 9 7 4 30 17 34

Malvern City

20 9 5 6 42 25 32

Morwell Pegasus

20 8 2 10 32 39 26

South Springvale

20 8 2 10 31 39 26

Noble Park Utd

20 7 5 8 32 42 26

Diamond Valley Utd

20 7 4 9 35 23 25

Casey Comets

20 5 3 12 21 36 18

Doncaster Rovers

20 5 2 13 19 47 17

Heatherton Utd

20 4 2 14 18 48 14

Knox City

P W D L F A PT

20 11 6 3 33 22 39

Eastern Lions

20 10 6 4 44 24 36

Box Hill United

20 11 1 8 60 34 34

Knox City

20 9 5 6 39 26 32

Malvern City

20 9 4 7 44 32 31

Doncaster Rovers

19 8 7 4 38 28 31

Dandenong City

20 9 2 9 48 32 29

Casey Comets

19 8 1 10 30 44 25

South Springvale

20 6 5 9 28 38 23

Diamond Valley Utd

19 5 4 10 31 44 19

Morwell Pegasus

20 7 1 12 32 66 19

Noble Park Utd

19 3 2 14 21 58 11

Heatherton Utd

Seniors	STATE SOUTH EAST 3	Reserves
Croydon City Arrows 0	Doveton 2 (J Ash 2), Fitzroy City 1	Croydon City Arrows 1 (L Seaye) Doveton 6, Fitzroy City 1
Nunawading City FC 4, Old Scotch 3	Peninsula Strikers 0,	1 Nunawading City FC 4, Old Scotch 3
Mornington 3 (L Vallance 2 C Syrratt) Waverley Wanderers 2, Frankston Pines 0	Kingston City 0,	Peninsula Strikers 1, Mornington 2 Waverley Wanderers 2, Frankston Pines 0
Kingston City		
Mornington		
Old Scotch		
Nunawading City FC		
Waverley Wanderers		
Doveton		
North Caulfield		
Peninsula Strikers		
Fitzroy City		
Berwick City		
Croydon City Arrows		
Frankston Pines		

Seniors		PROVI 1 SOUTH EAST							Reserves								
Warragul Utd 0 Monash University 0, Brandon Park 0 Beaumaris 0, Skye Utd 1 (S Bye) Springvale City 3, Hampton Park United Sparrows 3 Sandringham SC 1, Lyndale Utd 0 Old Melburnians 2, Mooroolbark 0 Old Camberwell Grammar 0									Warragul Utd 1 (R Wagner) Monash University 2 (M Woodward 2), Brandon Park 0 Beaumaris 1, Skye Utd 4 (P Marinho 2 D Cori N Dugina) Springvale City 3, Hampton Park United Sparrows Football Club 1 Sandringham SC 3, Lyndale Utd 1 Old Melburnians 7, Mooroolbark 3 (LC Killen S Topali S Uit Den Bogaard) Old Camberwell Grammar 0								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Springvale City	20	14	4	2	47	16	46		Sandringham SC	19	14	3	2	60	22	42	
Beaumaris	19	13	2	4	52	33	41		Mooroolbark	19	13	2	4	63	29	41	
Old Melburnians	20	10	7	3	35	27	37		Old Melburnians	19	11	4	4	44	15	37	
Warragul Utd	20	10	3	7	39	25	33		Monash University	19	10	6	3	45	22	36	
Mooroolbark	20	9	4	7	46	39	31		Warragul Utd	19	10	3	6	51	36	33	
Sandringham SC	19	9	3	7	42	34	27		Beaumaris	18	7	6	5	36	32	27	
Hampton Park United	19	7	6	6	36	36	24		Old Camberwell Grammar	19	6	6	7	29	32	24	
Hampton Park	20	7	3	10	24	32	24		Skye Utd	20	5	6	9	32	45	21	
Old Camberwell Grammar	19	6	4	9	27	31	22		Brandon Park	20	3	6	11	22	54	15	
Monash University	19	4	5	10	26	47	17		Lyndale Utd	18	3	4	11	33	59	13	
Skye Utd	20	3	3	14	33	65	12		Hampton Park United	19	4	3	12	25	57	12	
Lyndale Utd	19	1	4	14	22	64	7		Springvale City	19	2	3	14	21	58	9	

Seniors	PROVI 2 SOUTH EAST	Reserves													
Monbulk 2 Casey Kings 2, Riversdale 1 (R Nicovski)	Monbulk 3 Casey Kings 0, Riversdale 2 Boroondara														
Boroondara Eagles 0, Caulfield United Cobras SC 1	Eagles 2, Caulfield United Cobras SC 2 Endeavour Utd														
Endeavour Utd 0, Keysborough 3 Ashburton United 3 (P Winslow C Deferetos P Liapis), Uni. of Melbourne 0 Seaford Utd 0, Bayside Argonauts 2 Old Carey 5	2, Keysborough 0 Ashburton United 0, Uni. of Melbourne 4 Seaford Utd 1, Bayside Argonauts 1 Old Carey 3														
P	W	D	L	F	A	PT	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		
Riversdale	20	11	4	5	36	29	37	Monbulk	20	15	3	2	53	14	48
Monbulk	19	11	3	5	35	21	36	Endeavour Utd	19	12	3	4	46	18	39
Endeavour Utd	18	9	4	5	37	26	31	Uni. of Melbourne	20	12	0	8	40	29	36
Caulfield United Cobras	18	8	7	4	36	26	31	Caulfield United Cobras	19	10	3	6	33	20	33
Old Carey	20	9	2	9	35	35	29	Seaford Utd	19	10	2	7	49	31	32
Seaford Utd	20	8	4	8	36	41	28	Bayside Argonauts	20	10	2	8	39	29	32
Keysborough	20	7	6	7	38	32	27	Keysborough	20	8	4	8	45	40	28
Bayside Argonauts	20	6	7	7	37	37	25	Old Carey	20	8	3	9	30	33	27
Ashburton United	20	5	8	7	29	36	23	Ashburton United	19	8	3	8	32	40	27
Boroondara Eagles	19	5	3	11	27	38	18	Riversdale	20	6	1	13	25	37	19
Uni. of Melbourne	20	4	6	10	20	38	18	Boroondara Eagles	18	2	2	14	15	46	8
Casey Kings	19	3	8	8	34	41	14	Casey Kings	18	1	2	15	19	89	2

Seniors		PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST							Reserves								
Baxter 3 (T Henderson MP Van Schaijk 2) Whitehorse Utd 1, Collingwood City 1 (I Skukan) White Star Dandenong 0, Noble Park 4 Old Brighton Grammarians 3, Rowville Eagles 0 Old Trinity Grammarians 5, Brighton 7 East Bentleigh 3, Eltham Redback FC 2 (M Glogowski LA Robertson) Middle Park FC 4									Baxter 1 (D Kuhanez) Whitehorse Utd 1, Collingwood City 6 White Star Dandenong 1, Noble Park 0 Old Brighton Grammarians 5, Rowville Eagles 2 Old Trinity Grammarians 3, Brighton 2 East Bentleigh 2, Eltham Redback FC 0 Middle Park FC 2								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		
Middle Park FC	20	17	1	2	82	15	52	Old Brighton Grammarians	20	15	4	1	53	20	49		
Collingwood City	20	17	0	3	52	17	51	Collingwood City	20	14	5	1	69	19	47		
Whitehorse Utd	20	12	3	5	43	26	39	Middle Park FC	20	14	4	2	64	24	46		
Old Brighton Grammarians	20	11	2	7	52	36	35	Baxter	20	11	4	5	62	40	37		
Rowville Eagles	20	9	2	9	38	40	29	Whitehorse Utd	20	9	2	9	47	45	29		
Noble Park	20	9	2	9	43	55	29	Old Trinity Grammarians	20	9	1	10	36	38	28		
Baxter	20	9	1	10	42	39	28	Brighton	20	8	3	9	34	50	27		
Brighton	20	8	3	9	41	39	27	Rowville Eagles	20	7	2	11	33	53	23		
White Star Dandenong	20	7	1	12	31	60	22	Eltham Redback FC	20	5	3	12	25	44	18		
Old Trinity Grammarians	20	6	2	12	36	52	20	White Star Dandenong	20	5	0	15	43	65	15		
Eltham Redback FC	20	4	2	14	27	59	14	East Bentleigh	20	2	6	12	33	63	12		
East Bentleigh	20	1	4	18	25	74	4	Noble Park	20	3	2	15	28	66	11		

Provi NW 3
Avondale Heights v Hume Utd
Doyle Street Reserve
Geelong Rangers v Keilor Park
Myers Reserve
La Trobe University v Sunbury Utd
LaTrobe Uni Lower Field
Maribymong Greens v Cairnlea
Skinner Reserve
Sydenham Park v Whittlesea Utd
Keilor Lodge Reserve
Yarraville Glory v Melbourne University
McIvor Reserve



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Dandenong City pops the corks to State SE 2 title

By Michal Skrodsky

Well folks what an exciting weekend it has been in the suburban pitches of Melbourne and surrounds. There were some losers, some winners and a lot of super swick moves and goals. Some teams won Championships, some confirmed promotion and some were relegated. Let's have a look how things look with only 2 rounds to go.

State 2 NW saw Werribee City open up a 4 point gap on second placed Moreland City. The Bees won a crucial crunch game 1-0 at Whittlesea Ranges while Moreland City were held 1-1 at Westgate. The 0-1 result for Whittlesea Ranges pretty much ends their hopes for 1st place and maybe even 2nd place which is the play off spot. Brunswick City stayed in the hunt with a 3-1 win over Clifton Hill. Banyule City's late season revival continued with their 4th win a row, this time a 2-1 win over Ballarat, the result ends Ballarat's chances at promotion. Williamstown had a huge 5-1 over Altona East but will still need a miracle to stay up. In the following week there will be 3 crucial catch up games to be played: Whittlesea Ranges vs Williamstown, Moreland City vs Whittlesea Ranges and Ballarat vs Werribee City.

State 2 SE saw Dandenong City crowned Champions this weekend, City had a 1-0 win at Eastern Lions and when the news came in that Malvern had lost 1-0 at Diamond Valley the champagne was opened a wild party ignited! Congratulations goes to Dandenong City for a great season where they lead from start to finish. The chase is on between Malvern and Box Hill for the play off spot, Malvern remain 3 points clear of Box Hill as they had a surprise 2-0 loss at Heatherton. The bottom 3 teams all had wins to really heat up the chase for survival, Heatheron won as mentioned, Knox City got over South Springvale and Doncaster Rovers got over Casey Comets. Next round there is a huge relegation battle on with Knox City hosting Doncaster Rovers.

State 3 NW is all purple for season 2011 with Keilor Park being crowned Champions this week. Keilor Park got over Avondale Heights 2-1 and



Dandenong City fans and players celebrate clinching the State SE 2 title. Club President Tony Dorotich is raised aloft. Photo: GEORGE STOGIANNOU

La Trobe Uni failed in the University Derby going down 2-1 to Melbourne University. Yarraville Glory capitilised on La Trobe's loss with a 3-1 win on the road at Maribyrnong Greens and are now only 3 points off 2nd placed La Trobe. Down the other end of the table Geelong Rangers and Maribyrnong Greens have officially been relegated to Provisional 1 for next season, Sunbury United had a swick 8-0 win over Geelong.

State 3 SE had a massive result last Monday out at the Grange Reserve, second placed Kingston hosted first placed Mornington and smashed them with a 6-0 swicking. This weekend Mornington rebounded with a 3-2 win at Waverley Wanderers while Kingston were held to a 0-0 draw with already relegated Frankston Pines! This means both Mornington and Kingston are locked on 46 points. Despite Old Scotch's 3-0 win over Peninsula Strikers it looks like their promotion battle is over, they are now six points behind the leaders in 3rd. Down the other end of the table Croydon City will be relegated if Berwick City got up over North Caulfield in Sunday's match.

Provisional 1 NW saw the top 3 teams all have wins this week. North Sunshine got over Westvale 2-0, Sporting Whittlesea won 3-0 down at Surf Coast and South Yarra defeated Northern Falcons 4-0. This means North Sunshine and Sporting Whittlesea are both on 43 points with South Yarra 4 points behind in 3rd. Corio are out of the promotion battle after a poor 3-2 loss to Essendon United. The relegation battle is a fierce one, Laverton Park and Strathmore split the points with a 1-1 draw. The mighty Western Eagles pulled themselves out of the drop zone with a 1-0 win over North City Lions. Only 3 points seperate 7th placed Essendon United and 11th placed Strathmore.

Provisional 1 SE is swick, with Springvale City gaining promotion to the State Leagues! The Springers came into their match against struggling Skye United only needing a pointa and took home all 3 with a swick 3-1 win. Second placed Beaumaris had a 0-0 draw with Brandon Park and are 4 points off first and 4 points ahead of third placed Old Melburnians who got over Lyndale United 2-0. This result for Lyndale means they have been officially relegated, bad luck Lyndale. Monash

University had a 0-0 draw with Warragul United meaning they are all but safe and Skye United need a miracle to stay up. Next week Beaumaris play a catch up game against Old Camberwell, Beaumaris can secure promotion with a win.

Provisional 2 NW has Moreland United all but promoted. Moreland United had a 3-0 win at Elwood City and are now 6 points clear of 3rd place. The race for second has been thrown wide open with Lalor United having a swick 3-0 win over West Preston. This result means West Preston drop down to 3rd on the table and Hoppers Crossing are now 2nd after a massive 5-2 win over Epping City. Epping are now in 5th but are only 3 points off 2nd placed Hoppers Crossing. Northern Roosters had a huge 4-1 win over fellow relegation battlers Melbourne Tornado. This means the Roosters are now 10th and 3 points clear of Tornado. Next round West Preston face Hoppers Crossing in a match that could decide promotion!

The battle rages on in **Provisional 2 SE**. Monbulk lost top spot following a 2-2 draw with Casey Kings and Riversdale got over Boroondara 1-0. Caulfield United kept their slim hopes



North Geelong celebrate scoring against Fawkner in State League Division One. Photo: STEVE STAREK

for promotion alive with a spirited 1-0 win at Endeavour United. Down the bottom of the table Borronudara, Casey Kings and Uni of Melbourne continue their swick battle for survival. Next week this league will be much clearer with several very important catch up games to be played. Casey Kings take on Caulfield United, Boroondara host Endeavour United and Mobulk take on Endeavour United.

Provisional 3 NW had the famous, the mighty, the swick, the great Brunswick Zebras gain promotion following the swickest 6-2 win over Moreland Wolves. Essendon swicksters had a swick 7-0 win over Darebin United who are lacking majorly in swickness. This means Essendon remain in second 4 points off Brunswick Zebras. Heidelberg Stars promotion hopes suffered a huge blow after a 2-1 loss to the resurgant Melton Phoenix. This round seems to have been the decicive one in terms of promotion as Heidelberg and Moreland are now 5 points off Essendon in second place. Down the bottom

Mill Park and Melton had wins which means Youth United are now 5 points off safety.

Provisional 3 SE leaves not much to write about. Collingwood had another win and Middle Park had another win. Collingwood defeated White Star Dandenong 1-0 and clinched promotion officially this weekend while Middle Park beat Eltham 4-2. Everyone is waiting for the Round 22 clash when these two will go up against eachother to decide the title.

Okay folks, first off all congratulations to those teams winning leagues and clinching promotion. Next week most of you get a rest as there is a rest weekend, but some of your clubs are playing, and boy do they need your support! When they win, they'll shout yabadabadoo! If they lose, you must be there to comfort your team. Stay on the swick side of life my brothers and sisters.

CRUNCHALOR!



Essendon Royals' Chris Galea on the run, who scored a sublime goal to put Royals 2-0 up. Photo: MATT GALEA



Dustin Moos (Warragul Utd) under pressure from Jasmin Limic (Springvale City). Ali Osmani (left) backs up. Photo: MATT GALEA

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goal! Weekly

By Niki Cook

Sandringham will meet South Melbourne Women's in next Saturday's WPL Grand Final after it defeated Casey Comets in a dramatic penalty shootout at White Eagles Stadium on Sunday afternoon.

After a goalless first half, the match sprung to life after the interval, but ended all square. A nail-biting thirty minutes of extra time ensued, before the winner was determined in a heart-stopping penalty shootout. The result means that, for the third consecutive year, the top two teams in the competition have made it through to the season decider.

Going into the match, opinions were fairly evenly divided on who was the favourite to triumph. Sandringham had finished the higher on the ladder, but had lost twice to Casey during the season and was missing two key players in Ashley Brown and Stephanie Catley, who were away at a Young Matildas camp. Casey went into the game on the back of a strong victory over Heidelberg, but it had already proved something of a surprise package, and there were questions over whether its young squad would be able to back up from last week's heroics.

Windy conditions greeted the players at White Eagles Stadium, with the strong breeze blowing directly from one goal to the other. The players took time to adapt to the blustery conditions, which made for a scrappy first half in which both sides struggled to gain any ascendancy. Casey looked the better of the two, increasingly threatening with diagonal through balls, and it fashioned the best chance of the half when Nicola Prins hit a fierce shot that Sandringham custodian Peta Horman did well to turn over.

Casey started the second half in lively fashion, and it was rewarded three minutes after the break when it was awarded a penalty after one of its players was brought down in the box. Comets veteran Melissa Atherton stepped up and coolly slotted home the spot kick, to give her team a deserved lead. Sandringham looked to respond immediately, but it was lacking its usual composure on the ball. Stephanie Tanti was used frequently as an attacking option, but whilst she got herself into dangerous positions, her final shot all too often lacked accuracy. She had an excellent opportunity ten minutes into the second half when she was put clean through by Paige Dodds, and chipped the advancing keeper, only for the ball to sail over the bar.

With time rapidly running out, Sandringham sacrificed defender Alina Kapusta for the more attacking Eliza Gleadell, as it went in desperate search of an equaliser. The move al-



Lisa Cloke (Sandringham) savours the joy of coming on as a sub and putting the team back in the match. Rebecca Sherry is mortified. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Sandy's stacks-on-the mill-celebration after winning the penalty shoot-out against Casey Comets
Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

most worked instantly, when good work down the left flank resulted in Sandringham in possession in the Casey penalty area and outnumbering its opponents, but the eventual shot lacked power and was cleared off the line.

The equaliser ultimately came ten minutes from time. Emma Runnalls chased a ball down the right wing, and Casey goalkeeper Alexandra Lynch made an ill-judged decision to come out to clear the ball. Runnalls beat her to the ball, and shot diagonally from the edge of the area. While her shot lacked the direction and power needed to score, it ended up being an effective cross, as substitute Lisa Cloke appeared at the back post to slot the ball into the un-

guarded net.

Despite the game heading rapidly for extra time, Casey showed great determination as it sought a winner before the final whistle, and it looked to use the wind advantage to help its cause. Laura Croft went close with a long range free kick that took everyone by surprise as it evaded the melee in the penalty area and bounced inches over the crossbar, before Taryn Brown forced Horman into a fine save with a fierce shot deep in stoppage time.

Sandringham enjoyed the wind advantage in the first period of extra time, and it made use of it to snatch the lead three minutes in. Having earned a corner in strange fashion after the ball cannoned off Croft

a good forty metres from the Casey goal and bounced over the line, the ball was swung in dangerously, but the Casey defence scrambled it clear for a second corner. The second ball was equally threatening and was headed goal-wards, only to hit the crossbar and rebound. It was met once again by a Sandringham player, and her looping header drifted over everyone and into the net. Sandringham's effectiveness at corners nearly saw it further extend its lead minutes later, but Lynch rose smartly to tip the ball away.

Tanti had a golden opportunity to seal victory for Sandringham early in the second period of extra time when she was put clean through in the centre

of the penalty area, with only Lynch to beat. Unfortunately for her, she blazed over, much to the relief of the Casey supporters.

After dropping briefly following the goal, Casey had shown signs of lifting towards the end of the first period of extra time, and the industry of the players paid dividends five minutes after the break. Casey was awarded a free kick about 25 metres out, on the left hand side of the field. While most were expecting the shot, Prins played the ball square inside to Aimee Benton, and her sweetly struck shot flew into the top left hand corner of the goal, giving Horman no chance.

This was a match that had seesawed from end to end,

WPL RESULTS
Women's Premier League Preliminary Final
Sandringham SC 2 Casey Comets 2
Sandringham wins 4-3 on pens.
Sandrinham advances to the WPL Grand Final.
Casey Comets are eliminated.

WPL GRAND FINAL
WPL Grand Final South Melbourne v Sandringham Saturday 3rd September KO 12PM AAMI Park

and there was drama right up until the final minute, when Sandringham almost snatched a winner. Lynch came out to the right hand side of her box to claim a relatively simple ball, but fumbled it loose. Fortunately for her, there was a Casey defender on the line to clear the resulting shot, and so the match finished 2-2.

Penalty shootouts are beloved by few, but there can be no argument about the excitement they produce. Casey stepped up to the spot first and got off to the worst possible start, as Prins hit a woeful shot straight at Horman, who caught the ball without having to move. Tanti went first for Sandringham and, while she had been off target with much of her shooting during the match, made no mistake from the spot. Benton for Casey and Lucy Kapusta for Sandringham both then scored, before Horman produced a fine save diving to her right to deny Alexandra Gummer.

Things were beginning to look bleak for Casey, and heads had started to drop, but Lynch matched her counterpart as she produced an excellent one-handed save to keep out Hannah Stuart's effort. Atherton scored Casey's third kick to tie the scores at 2-2, before Lynch was the star again, saving Sienna Fogarty's shot. Despite the pressure, both teams scored their final spot kicks, taking the match into sudden death. Lana Bonnet stepped up for Casey and, unfortunately, blasted her effort high over the bar, leaving it to Gleadell to slot home her kick and send Sandringham into the final.

Next weekend's Grand Final will see South Melbourne Women's and Sandringham meet for the third time in as many weeks, with the teams having each won one of the previous two recent meetings. South will have had the benefit of the week's rest, while Sandringham will be buoyed by the return of Brown and Catley, so it has all the makings of a high quality match.

Three-way dance continues right to the finish line



SL1

Mem Suleyman

Port continue on their merry ways

Port came into this game on the back of their worst defeat in nearly three seasons and Sunshine were still smarting from a narrow loss to visitors Langwarrin which put paid to any promotion aspirations they may have had.

Knowing that a win was required Port adopted a new look formation and dispensed with the 4 3 3 formation for the more direct 4 4 2. Sunshine on the other hand had a surprise of their own up their sleeve and played former Melbourne Victory Captain and holder of 51 full caps for the Socceroos, Kevin Muscat who took his place as Right Back.

The Port Melbourne changes paid benefits almost immediately with Niclas Ronne latching onto a pass by his former Brondby teammate Marc Olsen and sending the ball arcing over the keeper. 1-Nil up after 90 seconds!

Port tried to take the game beyond Sunshine but it was Sunshine who finished the first half much the stronger team. The defensive line of Roberts, Rosman, Verbovac, Mason were imperious all game and the Port keeper was putting in a performance which was justifying why many think he is the stand out keeper in State 1.

The Port midfield which has been under considerable scrutiny in recent weeks were having a much better game moving forwards and delivering the ball quickly which was assisting the two front men in making inroads into the final third of the pitch. Muscat was showing all the skills he has picked up in over 15 years in the English and Scottish Leagues and some of the reasons why he has become one of the most vilified men in Australian football with injudicious use of the elbow on a couple of occasions leaving one Port player to ask team mates if he still had all his teeth and Muscat with a yellow, vintage Muscat.

In the second half Port had the chances to put the game to bed but a simply breathtaking 25 yard run by Marc Olsen which saw him slalom through the Georgie's defence cannoned off the post and back into the field of play with keeper Marijo Roza comprehensively beaten.

At full time the Port supporters sense of relief was evident. Without stating the obvious Port now require 4 points from the 2 remaining games to be absolutely sure of promotion.



Kole Delev (left) and Chris Greechan clash in the closing stages of Saturday's Magic v Stars game.

PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Southern Stars keeper Robbie Acs loses the ball after a tangle with Halil Gur and George Papadopoulos (front).

PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

Stars drop critical points
This was a very entertaining game for the neutral observer. Altona took the game to Southern Stars and can count themselves unlucky not to have taken all three points. Stars started well but it was Altona Magic who had the majority of possession and opportunities, still it was 0-0 at half time.

Altona will reflect on the fact that they should have wrapped up the game in the first 25 minutes of the 2nd Half with the amount of possession and chances they were creating. Papadopoulos and Lujic were giving the Stars defence nightmares and the Stars keeper Robert Acs was having one of those games that destroys

strikers confidence and egos denying Altona the 2nd goal. Acs pulled out one screamer to deny a certain goal and was a major factor in narrowing angles and putting strikers off all day.

Stars Manager Dean Hennessey was urging his troops on and in the last 15mins got the goal that they were looking for although a lot of the crowd felt the Altona's keeper Tomich could have done better in attempting to save the ball.

Right at the death Altona could have stolen it, a through ball which would have released Lucic one on one with Acs was intercepted by the merest of touches by Berkan Serkaci and diverted out of play.

Zebras trounce Suburbs to stay in the race

Whittlesea Zebras scored four second half goals to humiliate the dreadful Western Suburbs. Suburbs never really turned out for this game and their poor second half showing clearly demonstrated that.

The Zebras made a couple of changes from last weeks team which was evident in the second half with the Zebras running out the full ninety minutes teaching Suburbs a footballing lesson in the meantime.

Western Suburbs will now hope results go there way next week in the catch round when Langwarrin take on promotion pushing Southern Stars.

Langwarrin too good for young Preston

Langwarrin were too strong for the battered Preston who certainly looked liked they were planning for next season as they introduced some fresh new blood into their first team.

A Chris Driver free kick just after 10 minutes opened up proceedings at Lawton Park Reserve for the visitors. Caleb Nicholas was again on the score sheet this season as a Paul Matich through ball was finished off from the star striker.

Nicholas would again find himself on the score sheet after halftime as a cross from out wide was chested down from the striker and well placed to grab the all important three points for the away side.

SL1 RESULTS
Port Melbourne 1 (E Vassiliadis) Sunshine George Cross 0
Altona Magic 1 Southern Stars 1
Fawkner Blues 0 North Geelong Warriors 3
Langwarrin 3 Preston Lions 0
Western Suburbs 0 Whittlesea Zebras 4

Under 21s: Port Melbourne 1 Sunshine George Cross 0, Altona Magic 0 Southern Stars 1, Fawkner Blues 1 North Geelong Warriors 0, Langwarrin 4 Preston Lions 1, Western Suburbs 1 Whittlesea Zebras 1.
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SL1 LADDER							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Port Melbourne	20	12	5	3	29	17	41
Whittlesea Z	20	11	5	4	38	22	38
Southern Stars	19	11	4	4	34	22	37
Altona Magic	20	9	5	6	32	27	29
Pascoe Vale	19	8	2	9	33	24	26
North Geelong	20	8	2	10	28	33	26
Bulleen Lions	19	7	4	8	23	22	25
Sun George X	20	7	4	9	26	29	25
Langwarrin	19	6	5	8	27	31	23
Western Sub	20	7	2	11	23	38	23
Fawkner Blues	20	6	3	11	20	23	21
Preston Lions	20	4	3	13	23	48	15

SL1 Next Round
North Geelong Warrior v Altona Magic <i>Elcho Park</i> <i>Fri 9 Sep 11 8:30PM</i>
Pascoe Vale v Langwarrin <i>Hosken Reserve</i> <i>Sat 10 Sep 11 3:00PM</i>
Southern Stars v FC Bulleen Lions <i>Kingston Heath Soc...</i> <i>Sat 10 Sep 11 7:00PM</i>
Whittlesea Zebras v Sun George Cross <i>Epping Soccer Stadium</i> <i>Sun 11 Sep 11 3:00PM</i>
Preston Lions v Port Melbourne <i>BT Connor Reserve</i> <i>Sun 11 Sep 11 3:00PM</i>
Western Suburbs v Fawkner Blues <i>Ralph Reserve</i> <i>Sun 11 Sep 11 3:00PM</i>

SL1 U21 LADDER							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulleen Lions	19	13	2	4	63	18	41
Fawkner Blues	20	11	5	4	43	28	38
Pascoe Vale	19	12	1	6	43	32	37
Southern Stars	19	11	2	6	42	36	35
Western Sub	20	10	2	8	37	44	32
North Geelong	19	9	3	7	33	23	30
Whittlesea Z	20	9	3	8	37	34	30
Langwarrin	19	7	2	10	28	48	23
Port Melbourne	20	5	5	10	26	40	20
Sun George X	20	6	2	12	36	52	20
Altona Magic	20	5	3	12	33	42	15
Preston Lions	19	3	2	14	26	50	11

Anderson hat trick seals Warriors win

Michael Anderson was the hat trick hero for North Geelong as they did no favors to the relegation fighting Fawkner Blues.

CB Smith Reserve was the talking point again as the ground was again in absolute awful condition, an unwanted headache for the home side.

Anderson's first two goals came before halftime as the cross from the left hand side was volleyed home and a nice through ball was enough to seal his second.

Just after halftime a long ball went over the Fawkner defence left Anderson alone with the keeper to finish off his third goal. Important victory for the away side devastation for the home team as their fight for survival continues.

Semi Finals beckon for Mirabella Cup honours



Robert Di Fabio

Following 123 fixtures, over seven rounds, the Mirabella Cup has ultimately arrived at the semi finals stage, where only four teams are left standing. VPL affiliates – Green Gully, Oakleigh Cannons, Melbourne Knights and Northcote City – will battle it out to be crowned the inaugural winners of the Mirabella Cup.

Green Gully has the potential to cap off an amazing season by winning the Victorian treble. They’ve already won the minor premiership in the VPL and have cemented their place in the Grand Final at AAMI Park on Saturday at 4pm. If the Cavaliers are able

to clinch the Mirabella Cup prize, it will be an historical campaign that will be looked upon with fond memories.

Reminiscent of the FA Cup, the Mirabella Cup semi finals will be held at neutral venues to alleviate any home ground advantage that could have otherwise come into fruition.

Presently, the FFV has not released official details on prospective venues or dates, although it is believed both ties will likely be played on Wednesday September 7. The finale is scheduled to take place the following weekend, on either September 17 or 18.

Oakleigh Cannons vs Melbourne Knights – Date & Venue TBC

Since entering the competition at the fourth round, Oakleigh has not encountered much difficulty in its progression to the last-four. The Cannons have overcome Waverley Wanderers, Pascoe Vale, Southern Stars and

Springvale White Eagle in the Quarter final series.

In contrast, the Knights have encompassed a fulfilling path towards the semi finals. Their first encounter in round four saw them prevail over Keilor Park, followed by a 3-1 victory over Provisional One outfit North Sunshine Eagles. The last-12 tie saw them extinguish the reverie of Regional outfit Cobram Victory, triumphing 2-1 in a closer than expected result. Whilst in the round-robin quarters, the Knights recorded a 0-0 stalemate with Hume City, before securing their birth in the semi finals by defeating Green Gully 1-0 in a hard fought encounter.

Oakleigh possess one of the more potent attacking forces in Victorian football. Calibre in the vein of former Melbourne Victory strikers – James Robinson and Ricky Diaco – accompanied with Hayden Doyle and Joshua

Groenewald are seemingly a formidable force to contain. Up the other end of the park, Melbourne Heart back-up goalkeeper Peter Zois has been an immense figure in Oakleigh’s charge to the league and cup finals.

Although the Knights didn’t feature in the VPL finals series, writing them off would be mere stupidity. Jacob Colosimo, 20, has been a revelation for the Knights in the second half of the season. After being promoted from the Under 21’s, Colosimo has taken his chance with open arms, scoring an impressive 10 goals from 12 appearances in the VPL.

The Cannons will start as overwhelming favourites, although the tie should be a close contest. The Knights’ confidence is beginning to surge, while the Cannons will feel buoyant of reaching the final, given their immense firepower and prolific form. Anticipate an animated, passionate encounter.

Northcote City vs Green Gully Cavaliers – Date & Venue TBC

Northcote City will be keen for redemption, after agonisingly missing the VPL finals, drawing 3-3 with South Melbourne on the last day of the home and away season.

The Mirabella Cup presents an enormous opportunity for Northcote, who have made their presence felt since winning promotion to the VPL at the conclusion of the 2009 season.

Meanwhile, the Green Gully Cavaliers sluggish start to the season is now a sheer hallucination, after playing some beautiful, coherent football throughout the winter months of the season. Their minor premiership crown is a true illustration of their form of late in the league and cup respectively. Despite losing the last quarter final fixture against the Knights, it was effectively a dead rubber for the Cavaliers, given

they had already progressed to the last-four, courtesy of their earlier 1-0 triumph over Hume City.

Both meetings in the VPL this season have been exceptionally close, with a flurry of goals on display. In the opening round of the season, Oakleigh prevailed 3-2 in an animated encounter, while the return tie witnessed Northcote City battle gallantly, only to succumb to a 4-3 defeat.

In some respects, Oakleigh possess a minor psychological advantage given their supremacy throughout the year, although if the results are anything to go by, then we can expect a high scoring, fervent affair. With a cup final up for grabs, expect a vibrant contest.

Follow Robert on Twitter @RobertDiFabio

Scudetto in a spin as strike delays new season



Robert Di Fabio

The feel-good story of last season was Udinese’s summit to fourth position. On a tension filled final day, the outfit based in Udine held on nervously to record a 0-0 result with champions Milan to cement their place in the Champions League qualifiers. It was an amazing scene, as thousands of fans flocked to the pitch following the referee’s final whistle. The scenes were more inclined to a championship feat. Chilean, Alexis Sanchez who was at the epicentre to Udinese’s success will be greatly missed, after the club accepted a transfer figure of €37.5 million from Barcelona. Given the club’s loss, it will be extremely difficult to replicate last season’s success, although uncanvassed situations aren’t susceptible in football.

Moving to the Italian capital, Roma has said arrivederci to Rosella Sensi, who relinquished her presidency after the club was bought out by a American owners, a first for Italian football. The innovative owners are determined to encompass a cultural revolution at the club. Luis Enrique has since been appointed as manager and has reportedly been at lock heads with Francesco Totti, not a great way to commence your journey with the club!

With the illusion of creating a ‘BarceRoma’ philosophy, the pressure will be heaping on Enrique to get the right results. As we’ve all come to learn, managerial positions are advertised on a frequent basis in Italy.

Meanwhile, inner-city rival Lazio is ambitious and feeling buoyant, following a successful campaign last season. After merely avoiding relegation in 2009/10, the Rome based outfit will be determined to make their presence felt. Edy Reja will once again take charge of the team who will also partake in the Europa League. The signing

of German international Miroslav Klose from Bayern Munich on a free transfer along with former Liverpool star Djibril Cisse are testaments to Lazio’s desire to climb back to the summit of Italian football.

The Old Lady in Juventus is ardent to ascend back to the pinnacle of Italian football. After finishing in seventh position for the second consecutive campaign, the Turin based club will subsequently be exempt from participation in any formal European competition in 2011/12. Given the circumstances, the club acted swiftly by replacing Luigi Del Neri with former Juventus captain Antonio Conte, whom recently won promotion with Siena from Serie B. Despite missing the glamour of European competition, it is truly a blessing in disguise for a club who has struggled on the domestic front since the notorious Calciopoli scandal. Given their lack of depth and temperament, there’s no doubt that Juventus has struggled to balance the demands of two challenging competitions simultaneously. Conte will have no excuses to fall back on if his squad doesn’t perform to lofty standards.

The inclusion of experienced playmaker Andrea Pirlo will be a welcome addition, while striker Mirko Vucinic is a proven goal scorer in Serie A, scoring 46 goals in 147 appearances for his former club Roma. Meanwhile, Alessandro Matri, 27 was bought outright from Cagliari, after being on loan at the club last season. Evidently, teams traveling to Turin don’t embody the same level of intimidation in contrast to Juventus’ more celebrated days. Conte will be determined to make Turin a fortress once again, with a football culture and atmosphere that will daunt away clubs.

Vincenzo Montella’s impressive stint as interim coach of Roma has earned him a two-year contract with Catania, the Serie A club based in Eastern Sicily. After Claudio Ranieri resigned from his post at Roma in February, Montella’s stint in the final three months of the campaign ultimately payed grand dividends.

Meanwhile, Palermo President



Can AC Milan’s Zlatan Ibrahimovic continue his hot streak of titles and make it 9 straight in three different countries with five clubs?

Maurizio Zamparini has lived up to his notorious impatient persona by installing Stefano Pioli as head coach, replacing Delio Rossi, who performed a diligent job in guiding the club to eight on the table, whilst reaching the final of the Coppa Italia.

The somewhat unpredictable Genoa will be hoping for prosperous fortunes after poaching Alberto Malesani from Bologna. With a restricted budget, Malesani did his managerial credentials a wealth of good after saving the club from relegation. Pier Paolo Bisoli will subsequently take charge of Bologna. The young coach has an impressive pedigree, taking Cesena to successive promotions.

Cesena have welcomed veteran striker Adrian Mutu, 32, to the fold after his dishonourable falling out at Fiorentina, where he was suspended for taking a banned substance. Meanwhile, Marco Giampaolo has been inaugurated as the new manager.

Two-time Serie A champion Fiorentina will be eager to improve on their ninth placing last season and win a spot back into

Europe. Sinisa Mihajlovic will seek vast improvement in his second season in charge, after replacing the club’s longest serving coach - Cesare Prandelli – who took up the reins of the Italian national team.

Whilst on the national front, former Italian manager, Roberto Donadoni was sacked by Cagliari owner Massimo Cellino on August 12 after reports suggested a falling out between the pair. Donadoni allegedly wasn’t happy with the club’s ambition after selling Alessandro Matri to Juventus. Massimo Ficcadenti has since been appointed as the new manager.

Atalanta, the club based in Bergamo won instant promotion back to the top flight following a brilliant Serie B campaign, where they were crowned champions. Although, the party was short lived. Allegations of corruption and match-fixing has marred their off-season, with suspected illegal bets placed on matches. The governing body acted promptly by deducting six points from the championship. It’s undoubtedly a major blow to Atalanta’s survival prospects.

Parma, the city made famous

for its distinguished parmigiana cheese was ensured their top flight status thanks to the services of Franco Colomba. He replaced Pasquale Marino as manager in April and never took a step back. Parma is the 15th club Colomba has managed as head coach in only 18 years. Don’t expect him to stick around for too long!

The city renowned for the enchanted Romeo and Juliet tale, also boasts its Serie A prominence with Chievo Verona. Despite the club not outwardly strengthening their squad over the transfer market, Domenico Di Carlo will be eager to improve on the Gialloblu’s fortunes, despite in 11th position last season. Whilst rival Hellas Verona recently won promotion to Serie B, il derby della Scala will be an exciting proposition if Hellas can return to the top flight.

Despite saving Lecce’s blushes by avoiding relegation with one-game to spare, Luigi De Canio became another coaching casualty in Italy, after the board was dissatisfied with the 17th place finish. Eusebio Di Francesco, servant in Pescara’s return to Serie B in 2010/11, illustrated his coaching credentials by enforcing I Delfini to play a fluent

brand of football, only to merely miss a position in the play-offs.

Siena won instant promotion back to Serie A, after finishing the Serie B campaign in second position. Although, that didn’t stop them from changing manager, with Giuseppe Sannino being welcomed as the new gaffa. Sannino guided Varese to the Serie B play-offs only to just fall short of promotion. His extraordinary campaign obviously impressed the hierarchy at Siena. He’s not resistant to success, having won promotion on five occasions as a manager.

And finally, Novara will make their long awaited appearance back in the Italian top flight for the first time since 1956. It’s been an amazing period for Attilio Tesser, who was appointed coach in June 2009. He won the Lega Pro Prima Divisione (Sere C 1A) in 2009/10, where the club returned to Serie B for the first time in 33 years. Tesser then capped off an astonishing achievement for the club by winning promotion to Serie A for the first time in 55 years, prevailing over Padova in the play-off final after finishing 3rd during the season. Time will tell if they can survive the drop, nonetheless it is truly a fairytale brought to life.

The mind-set and philosophy of Italian football is quite unique. Unless you understand the temperament that encompasses “la bellissima partita” (the beautiful game), it can be difficult to appreciate the cultural differences that it possesses. Socceroo Vince Grella, who made his name at Empoli, Parma and Torino, in a career that spanned for a decade in Italy, summed up the dynamics of Italian football to perfection. Grella professed how the mind-set in Italy is purely not to lose, in contrast to the EPL, where the approach is to win at all costs. Every nation has its own beliefs on how the game should be played, that’s what makes football such a distinctive game. Anticipate to envisage a profusion of drama, heated rivalry, vibrant fans and an action-packed season of Serie A football.

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HUME CITY

Kenny Gero - 7 - Did well when called upon, never really forced into making a major save. Unlucky during the shootout.

Sam Dehaini - 7 - Struggled early on, but settled soon after and delivered some pin point crosses

Adam Nakic - 8 - Still in his first year of senior football, Nakic never looked out of place

Slave Bozinovski - 7 - Committed too many fouls and gave away free kicks in dangerous areas. Marked Groenewald out of most of the game though

Serdar Pir - 7 - Battled against Ante Cicak all night, and didnt really put a foot wrong

Mark Pistaninzi - 8 - Didnt stop running all day, made some brilliant challenges and was the engine room for the Hume midfield

Isayan Erdogan - 7 - Worked well in the middle of the park before succumbing to a knock late on

Atilla Ofli - 9 - Had a solid game, created many opportunities, and almost scored after a pile driving 30 yard effort in extra time

Philip Riccobene - 7 - Reasonable, without doing anything special. Consistant all night

Pece Siveski - 6 - Quiet night for Siveski, and he was replaced late in the game

Richie Cardozo - 8 - Worked well all night, linked well with Ofli on numerous occasions

Enes Gurkan - 8 - Came on late in the game and worked well down both flanks, delivering some brilliant crosses

Steven Pace - 7 - Replaced Erdogan late on and played as a defensive midfielder. Didnt get too much time to settle



Oakleigh is ecstatic after Craig Goodwin converts the winning penalty. Photo: ANITA MILAS



Peter Zois gives Oakleigh the edge after saving Adam Nakic's kick. Photo: ANITA MILAS



All for one and one for all. The Cannons stand tall as the drama unfolds. Photo: ANITA MILAS



OAKLEIGH CANNONS

Peter Zois - 9 - Saved two penalties to win the shootout, had a solid 120 minutes also. Man of the Match

Ari Drakos - 7 - Experienced campaigner who knows how to get the job done. Rarely put a foot wrong

Ramazan Tavsancioglu - 8 - More than held his own against a strong Hume strikeforce

Jamie Cummings - 7 - Confident on the ball, and provided good depth

Bonel Obradovic - 8 - Worked well both on and off the ball

Luke Walker - 7 - Solid in the air and controlled the middle of the park

Ante Cicak - 7 - Put in a solid effort before being replaced by Goodwin

Hayden Doyle - 8 - Played in the number 10 role and provided quality support in the front third

James Robinson - 7 - Workman-like performance from the reliable Robinson. Dominant in the air all night

Joshua Groenewald 5 - Struggled as a lone striker and replaced by Diaco

Frankie Lagana - 7 - Not one of his better games as he wasn't involved as much as usual but quality when on the ball

Craig Goodwin - 8 - Constantly running at the Hume back four but lacked the finishing touch he had the week before

Ricky Diaco - 7 - Came on for Groenewald and provided a outlet for Oakleigh to play too. Calmly slotted home his penalty



Preliminary Final action as both teams pushed eachother all the way to the brink. Photo: ANITA MILAS




So close yet so far: Adam Nakic is knackered after the final 120 minutes brings Hume's season to a close. Photo: ANITA MILAS



Pece Siveski and Hayden Doyle in action. Photo: ANITA MILAS






V-LEAGUE

NIKE PREMIERSHIP

Round 17

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Round 17 Wrap

Points begin to dry up with 5 rounds left

By Matthew Montgomery

Albert Park FC 3
North Melbourne FC 7
The first game to kick start round 17 of the NIKE V-League saw bottom of the league, Albert Park, take on a rampaging North Melbourne who are looking down on them at the top of the table.

As if Albert Park's task of going up against the league leaders wasn't going to be hard enough, North manager Milton Sakkos called their superstar Fernando De Moraes back to the side. Their opponents on the other hand weren't as fortunate as they were without manager Alex Arreguin and could only muster a squad of 5 players, including debutant Nathan Long.

The first half opened as expected when North raced to a 3-0 lead with goals to Hara Yoshinao, Fernando and Jonathan Barrientos. Being the underdogs and conceding early goals, one could have forgiven Albert Park for dropping their shoulders, but to their credit they clawed their way back as Rodrigo scored the next two goals in quick succession to reduce the deficit. But their jubilation was short lived as Fernando – again – came to crash the party when he set up Colby Waterfield on a platter to drill home and then added his second before half time to complete the scoring at 5-2, which was almost a minor win for the boys in orange.

The second half was not as action packed as the first due to a combination of Albert Park's stern defending and North's inability to finish, although when the dark blues did find the back of the net, they were goals of the upmost quality. Fernando added North's 6th and completed his first hat trick of the season when he instrumented a smart 1-2 with Yoshinao and sent his toe poke into the bottom right corner. Tiago Priori got his first of the match when his shot from a tight angle beat 3 Albert Park players and stunned the crowd, only for Felipe Rilling to score his first goal in an Orange shirt and finish the scoring at a 'respectable' 7-3 scoreline.

It was a brave performance from Albert Park who somewhat held their own against a usually heavy scoring North side. By no means were they blown out of the water! North on the other hand were the better side and did what they had to do to get the points. It was a good tune up game for the big clash against Brunswick next week.

FC Essendon 5
Fitzroy FC 7

The second clash of the night found 7th placed Essendon, the 09-10 season winners, play Fitzroy in 4th. Essendon, were again without their number 1 keeper Anthony Cianfone and in his place came former Ashburton keeper James Bush.

Fitzroy were almost at full strength, as Chris Yang was absent, although young George Mc Heileh took his place. Even though Fitzroy were the more inexperienced side, they were the favorites, but it was the combined experience that got them to a surprise 3-0 lead. Goals from Robert Shekari, Alex Hussein and Alex Stevanovic had the crowd in a state of shock and it took Fitzroy until very late in the half to register their first.

Johnny Nikolakoudis settled all of the nerves in yellow when he ran off his defender and met Richie Ferguson's corner in the 'D'. Fitzroy debutant, George Mc Heileh capped off an impressive first half showing with a goal by scoring through the legs of reds keeper James Bush making it 3-2 at the break.

The second half saw Fitzroy find their feet to play a more fluid brand of Futsal as



Ashburton's key playmaker, Mark Burton (13) scores past Metro keeper, Damir Salcin for what was arguably goal of the round.

they scored the first 4 goals of the half, with doubles from both Shayan Rashidi and Richie Ferguson – the pick of the goals being Ferguson's second, as Stephen Gustus, Mc Heileh and Ferguson completed a beautiful passing goal.

With the score at 6-3, Essendon fought their way back in through their regular strike pair in Hooman Shekari and Alex Stevanovic, who claimed his second.

The young boys of Fitzroy were having their nerves seriously tested for the second week in a row after last week's 4-3 win over Ashburton, but Nikolakoudis put the result beyond any doubt by adding his second and sealing his sides 7-5 win. It was an impressive win by Fitzroy who continue to go from strength to strength as the season goes on.

If they continue this hot run of form they could see them selves make a serious run in the upcoming FOz Cup.

Pascoe Vale FC 2
FC Prahran 6

On paper, the next clash that was on display was match of the round as 2nd on the ladder Pascoe Vale went to battle against a 5th placed Prahran.

Title hopefuls Pascoe Vale had an unchanged line up for the third week in a row, sporting a full strength squad – including former Prahran players Ernie Simsek and Adam Hussein who recently moved in the round 11 transfer period.

The only change to the Prahran side from last week was in between the sticks as Michael Chami was out through illness, he was replaced by Cem Bicer. Pascoe Vale defender, Ahmed Azzam, was the first to open the scoring as he hit his bobbled free kick past Cem Bicer from halfway.

Then in true Prahran fashion, they hit back through a stunning Maxi Avram dead-ball past a two-man wall to level the scores. In a bid to regain the lead, Pascoe Vale then went on a rampage on the Prahran goal, but it was Bicer who came out on top making no fewer than 5 top shelf saves. Joao Da Silva earned the black and whites the lead when he was left unguarded in the 'D' from an Ernie Simsek corner.

It was poor defending on Prahran's behalf, but Cameron Holmes' strike from the resulting kick-off made it 2-2 and that's the way it stayed until halftime. The second half was not as fortunate for Prahran as they struggled to threaten the Pascoe Vale goal, and goals from Simsek and Andre Caro early on was enough to put Prahran on the back foot.

Bicer was again the shining light for the Prahran side as he save Simsek's penalty, but a jaw dropping second half double from Da Silva was enough to end Prahran's brave challenge against the current league and cup holders. The only disappointing incident in the game came when Barbosa got sent off for a second yellow card.

Other than that it was a derby that was played in good spirits as Pascoe Vale claimed the points they so desperately craved.

Ashburton FC 4
Metropolitan FC 7

The game that followed saw 9th placed Ashburton go head to head against Metropolitan in 6th. Ashburton who have been out of sorts lately welcomed back captain, leader and club top scorer James Blackburn to the side.

Metropolitan who have found some of their best form recently had two huge inclusions of their own as their mercurial striker, Ivan Zilic and their #1 keeper from last season, Damir Salcin made a return. The first half started brightly for the sky blues as Metro's captain, Dino Redzepovic sent his thumper into the bottom left hand corner.

James Blackburn then got his side back into the game with a clinical finish, but his hard work was undone when Jusuf Avdic and Alija Redzepovic made it 3-1.

Then just as Metro had begun to look comfortable, Mark Burton scored one of the goals of the season as he rounded all of Avdic, Tomo Grgic and Damir Salcin to slot into an open net. Blackburn then scored his second of the half as he further inflicted more pain on Salcin by chipping him with ease.

The second half got even better for the 'green machine' as Blackburn – showing his importance in the side – scored his third and surprisingly gave his side the lead at 4-3.

But from tat point on it was all sky blue as Alija added two goals to complete his hat-trick, while his brother Dino claimed his second and keeper Salcin bagged a stunning free-kick from just in front of half way to cap off a solid return.

With that win, Metropolitan almost consolidate their place in the top 8 as they look destined to play in the FOz cup, whereas Ashburton, who had their last win (or last point for that matter) in round 11 continue to really struggle and with a serious ankle injury to key



Jon Barrientos scores yet another goal for North, seemingly shattering Albert Park keeper Kurt Fanourakis.

defender, Moe Alghorabi, the game against Albert Park next week becomes a little bit harder. They will definitely need to be on their toes.

FC Melbourne 0
FC Balwyn 6

The next game to follow was an encounter between two newly promoted sides who were both aiming to keep their chances of Cup Futsal alive as Melbourne in 10th tried to repeat their round 6 efforts and defeat Balwyn who were sitting below them in 11th only by three points.

Elias Stavridis was a welcome return to the Melbourne line up, but possibly their most important player, Fab De Britto was absent. Balwyn on the other hand had two of their more important players return in defender Tony Saric and striker Rob Zadwarny. The inclusion of Tony Saric almost instantly paid off as he gave Balwyn the lead with a delicate chip over a sprawled Harry Kitharidis. Melbourne's best chance came through Dominik Rafati's close range shot but he could only manage to blast over the top. The only other major piece of play that came from the first half was a second spot penalty for Balwyn in which Tony Imeri wasn't able to get past Kitharidis. The second half opened up with yet another penalty for Balwyn, this time from the edge of the 'D' and Tony Imeri made no mistake the second time around. The 2-0 lead seemed to release the nerves on the Balwyn boys as they began to knock the ball around with confidence, so much so that Rob Zadwarny got forward and made it 3-0. Melbourne's Chris Gospel then rattled the cross-bar with a beautifully struck strike from halfway that shook the crossbar, but that only seemed to put Balwyn into another gear as Jason Barrientos claimed a brace with a couple of well timed runs into the 'D'. Melbourne, who have seemed to lost the enthusiasm that made them so competitive at the start of the season were put out of their misery as defender Mark Saric – who relished more playing time on the pitch – got forward and put away Balwyn's 6th goal of the game. It was a strong team performance from Balwyn, including keeper Frano Saric who was only the second to keep a clean sheet this season. His job was made easier by Melbourne who struggled to threaten the Balwyn goal, and with only one goal in the last two weeks (which was a 5th foul penalty) they seriously need to address their forward stocks. Balwyn with

that win now move above Melbourne on goal difference in 10th place.

CF Brunswick 3
Hume FC 3

The final clash to round up the round 17 card saw outright 3rd ranked side, Brunswick play an unpredictable Hume in 9th. Brunswick manager, Niko Ignatiadis, had many major movements within his squad before kick-off as talisman Danny Ngaluaf and Mike Sharples were unavailable, while Ignat Filipovic was dropped from the side.

In his place came former Mickleham playmaker, Anthony Colossimo and Munya Nyadzayo. Hume had brought in two new inclusions in Sahin Akdogan and Omer Yucel, while manager Amin Keddad was missing for the second successive week.

Hume are what many like to call a 'big game side' as they always manage to relish games against the top teams, even though they are battling to crack into the top 8 and their big game player, Haider Noor, got them off to a great start as he latched onto keeper, Fethi Goren's long throw, turned Ruz Roslan and then coolly slotted into Brendan Chen's near post.

Noor then scored his second soon after he intercepted Damir Marusic's poor pass and then beat Chen in a 1 on 1 situation. The first half ended 2-0 to Hume, but they had to thank their keeper, Fethi Goren, for maintaining their clean-sheet as his goal was peppered constantly.

The 'Haider show' continued into the second as he scored his third for the game by sending his deft chip over the top of Chen, thus giving Hume a comfortable looking 3-0 lead.

Brunswick were ten given a lifeline as Anthony Colossimo's sidebar deflected off Mehmet Parlak's legs and in for the reds first. Colossimo then bagged one for himself as hit a peach of a strike into the top right corner, much to the delight of manager Ignatiadis.

With time running out, and Hume desperately trying to defend their 1 goal lead, Brunswick were rewarded for their persistence as their captain, Mathieu Piga's toe poke again took a deflection off Parlak to level the scores. It was definitely a point earned for Hume, who now climb into the top 8 at the expense of Ashburton.

The only blemish on their performance was the late red card awarded to Moe Tankir for his second yellow card.



Fitzroy manager Nick Nikolakoudis has been a revelation in charge of his young side. He boasts a record of 3 wins, 1 draw and 2 losses since his take over in round 12.

V-League Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Nth Melbourne FC	17	16	1	0	130	57	73	49
2 Pascoe Vale FC	17	14	2	1	108	40	68	44
3 CF Brunswick	17	10	2	5	103	83	20	32
4 Fitzroy FC	17	10	1	6	93	82	11	31
5 FC Prahran	17	8	2	7	103	83	20	26
6 Metropolitan FC	16	8	2	6	93	90	3	26
7 FC Essendon	17	7	1	9	95	127	-32	22
8 Hume FC	17	5	2	10	83	100	-17	17
9 Ashburton FC	17	5	2	10	89	111	-22	17
10 FC Balwyn	17	4	1	12	64	84	-20	13
11 FC Melbourne	16	4	1	11	53	92	-39	13
12 Albert Park FC	17	1	1	15	72	137	-65	4

NIKE V-LEAGUE RESULTS

Round 17 Wed Aug 24th

· 6:30 Albert Park FC v Nth Melbourne FC	3 - 7
· 7:15 FC Essendon v Fitzroy FC	5 - 7
· 8:00 Pascoe Vale FC v FC Prahran	2 - 6
· 8:45 Ashburton FC v Metropolitan FC	4 - 7
· 9:30 FC Melbourne v FC Balwyn	0 - 6
· 10:15 CF Brunswick v Hume FC	3 - 3

NIKE V-LEAGUE ROUND 18

Wed Aug 31st

· 6:30 Ashburton FC v Albert Park FC	
· 7:15 FC Prahran v Fitzroy FC	
· 8:00 CF Brunswick v Nth Melbourne FC	
· 8:45 Pascoe Vale FC v FC Balwyn	
· 9:30 FC Melbourne v Hume FC	
· 10:15 FC Essendon v Metropolitan FC	

NIKE V-LEAGUE Top Goal Scorers

1) A. Stevanovic FCE	39
2) J. Blackburn AFC	34
3) M. Avram FCP	32
4) A. Redzepovic Metro FC	32
5) M. Nyadzayo CFB	27

Catch
The Futbol Town Show
every Tuesday 7pm on
C31 and C44Digital



Photos By
MATT MONTGOMERY







BOB'S WORLD

A look at the lighter side of football.

With Mark Boric

Do As I Say...

When did 'Calibre' brand match balls, as currently being used in the VPL Finals Series, become one of the licensed ball manufacturers?

At the moment the FFV website lists five licensed match balls (adidas, Errea, Mitre, Nike and Patrick). The website clearly states: "These five ball manufacturers have the license to produce match balls for use in FFV competitions from 1 December 2009 to 30 November 2011. Clubs competing under FFV jurisdiction must use a match quality soccer ball from one of the licensed ball manufacturers during all FFV sanctioned competition. Clubs not abiding by this regulation will be subject to fines imposed by the FFV per breach (please refer to League Rules and Regulations for more information)."

So will the FFV be fining itself? Perhaps Calibre have attained a

license, with the FFV website being a little slow to acknowledge this. After all, match reports for last week's AVPL Finals were not put up on the AVPL website until Tuesday, so they are known to be tardy in that regard. The late reports come a week after Dr Ian Syson and The Age's Michael Lynch engaged in an argument on Twitter regarding the paper's coverage (or lack thereof) of the VPL. It's a spectacular own goal in that battle when the FFV can't even be bothered providing a decent service.

Cup Runneth Over?

After this week's AVPL Grand Final the focus will return to the Mirabella Cup. Will this be the one and only Mirabella Cup? Will there be a new sponsor next season, or no Cup at all? And when would Melbourne Heart and Melbourne Victory join in?

Ricochet Elrich

Ahmad Elrich: From Socceros to Underbelly. Would make a good title for his biography. Luckily for him those shooting at his home last week showed the accuracy of one of his crosses. Maybe the Street Socceros could have handed him a lifeline?

Heard of Herd?

By now, everyone has heard about Chris Herd, the young Aussie impressing for Aston Villa against Wolves of Saturday night. It's a timely boost for Aussies in the EPL, who's numbers diminished further with the return to Australia of Brett Emerton.

Brett of a Rushden

Emerton's return to Sydney was certainly less draw out than the signing of Harry Kewell by Melbourne Victory. Though it may have been in the pipeline for a while, and explains why Sydney FC did not throw all their eggs in the Kewell basket as you would have expected them to do. I don't think Rebecca Wilson is impressed, but it looks like a good signing to me.



KATSA'S KORNER

Resident hack with a career spanning over 700 Games (685 in the Provisional League Reserves) and 15 senior cameo appearances.

With George Katsamboukas

Hot on the heels of Harry's signing at Melbourne Victory, Sydney FC has announced that Blackburn Rovers and Socceroo Player Brett Emerton will be part of their squad next season.

In the years to come it seems that many Aussie ex-Pats who have plied their trade overseas will return to Australian shores and join the Benny's Retirement League, to see out their playing days.

So Grand

Over to the VPL we go, where the Oakleigh Cannons earned the right to play in the Grand Final against Green Gully, having defeated Hume City on penalties.

Punters are reminded to contact the House of Darebin first thing Monday to book their tickets to this Game, in order to avoid disappointment.

So Dandy

The Fat Lady is warming up her vocal chords, as we are at the Business end of the Season.

First cab of the rank is Dandenong City who have secured the State League State 2 Championship, with two Rounds to spare.

Congratulations to them as they have certainly been the form side of that League.

However, on the other side of the scale, the Fat Lady will sing for some Teams, whilst the Westgate beckons others, and with two Rounds to go, Club Powerbrokers who's Teams find themselves at the wrong end of the Ladder, are finding it difficult to Sleep.

Thankfully for them though, their appetites for Food and Happy Ends has not been affected, and they have given a new meaning to the Term "Comfort Eating".

Paying the Price

Over to the House of Darebin we go, where the "Zero Tolerance Policy" has certainly rocked the foundations of a number of Clubs, who's Club Powerbrokers enjoyed many years of spraying the Men In Black. However, these outbursts are no longer tolerated, with hefty fines being dished out.

Reading through the FFV Websites Tribunal Decisions Page many have suffered these types of Sad Ends, and Clubs need to educate their entire Club that spraying a Man In Black will lead to the

Kaching Sound being heard at the House of Darebin. Be warned that these fines are not just a few Hundred \$\$\$, but rather a few \$\$\$ on the other scale.

Katsakis Chucks it

Even though the season proper has concluded the scorer has already begun getting the summer runs on the board. George Katsakis resigned from the post at Heidelberg United last week after nearly five seasons in charge. A fresh challenge awaits for George as he looks to recharge his batteries and get back into the game before too long. Former Socceroo Jeff Olver has also called it a day at the Village.

Going for Gold

The VPL's night of nights takes place this evening at the Victory Room at Etihad Stadium where the red carpet will be rolled out for the Gold Medal winners. My pick for the VPL Gold Medal goes to Hume's Andy Vlahos, and I wouldn't be surprised if Oakleigh's Arthur Papas takes out the gong for coach of the year.

This Is Katsa - Just as You Have Known Him

Dandy City crowned 'Campiones'

By George Stogiannou

Burwood's Gardiner's Creek Reserve was the setting for scenes of joyful celebration on Saturday when competition leader Dandenong City secured a historic State League 2 SE title with a 1-0 win over home team Eastern Lions, with two rounds remaining.

The travelling City faithful chanted "Champions" just before the final whistle as news filtered through that City's closest title rival Malvern City was losing to Diamond Valley United. And when the final whistle sounded, and the title confirmed, City players, supporters and club officials joined together on the park, to pop open the champagne bottles, and raise aloft club captain Ivan "Gela" Gelemanovic, and club president Tony Dorotich, amidst much boisterous singing and cheering.

The title win represents a new milestone for the club as its first ever promotion into State League Division 1.

Club president Tony Dorotich remarked, "I'm thrilled to be part of the club. I've been president for nearly eight years. I've always enjoyed my time whether we've won, lost or drawn, but success makes it a little bit sweeter. We set ourselves a goal at the start of the year.

We recruited well, we recruited the right coach, the coach that we've been looking for the past five years and the results have come.

It's a lot of history. Everyone said when the merger happened three years ago, we were going to come in and take over the club, we were going to do all sorts of things. We've proven that mergers can work. Now there's people that were part of the old Dandenong City that are part of this success. I think it's a great example to everyone of what can be done with mergers with clubs."

Title winning coach Joe Biskic commented after the match, "After last week's disappointment we came back strongly and I think we fully deserved the win today. We put pressure on Malvern and they lost today. Clinching the championship with two weeks to go is a relief. The guys fully deserved their success this year."

On a personal note, Biskic reflected, "I'll be honest. I've never won the league before. I've been coach at so many clubs. A few times I was pretty close. This is probably the most rewarding achievement for me as a coach. For every coach it's something really special. When I came to the club I knew there was going to be pressure on me and I just took that. As a coach, as a player, I always tried to achieve something. You always try to achieve and set as a goal the most you can. Sometimes you're going to fail. But one day, if you're goal will be to achieve that, you will. That's my dream, that's every player's dream...There was a bit of pressure, but I knew we had a quality team and if we put a %100 effort we could achieve and obviously that was really exciting for me as coach and for the club."

Today's win over Eastern Lions came courtesy of an in-swinging Tommy Razov free kick from the right flank. Lions' keeper Andy Lightfoot misjudged the flight of Razov's cross which flew inside the far post for the match-winner in the 22nd minute.



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Men's Metropolitan League & Women's Weekend Scoreboard

Mens Metropolitan League North-West: Oak Park SC										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P			
1 Light Utd 1, Northern Utd 1 Mitchell Rangers 2 (A Bullus 2), Tullamarine Jets 5 Keon Park 1, Bundoora Utd 3										
2 Kellor Wolves 2 Reserves: Oak Park SC 1 Light Utd 3										
3 Northern Utd 1 Mitchell Rangers 10 (L Oei 2 S Clothier C										
4 Maidment 3 M Elorr J De Battista 2 M Ordar), Tullamarine Jets 4 Keon Park 1, Bundoora Utd 1 Kellor Wolves 2										

Mens Metropolitan League South-East: Dandenong Warriors										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P			
1 Glen Waverley 2, Endeavour Hills 1 Old Haileybury 1, St Kevins 7 Dandenong Wolves 2, Sandown Lions FC 2 (J Galkuoth G Nyuon) Aston Athletic Football Club 2, Parkmore 5 Ringwood City 2, Old Mentonians 3 Harrisfield Hurricanes 0 Reserves: Dandenong Warriors 0 Glen Waverley 2, Endeavour Hills 4 Old Haileybury 3, St Kevins 2 Dandenong Wolves 0, Sandown Lions FC 1 (G Majok) Aston Athletic Football Club 1, Parkmore 1 Ringwood City 1, Old Mentonians 2 Harrisfield Hurricanes 4										

Mens Metropolitan League Central: Manningham 2 Albert Park 1, Carlton Youth 5 Moonee Valley Knights 0, Altona North 3 Caulfield Grammarians 1, Yarra Jets 4 Melbourne Lions 2 Reserves: Manningham 4 Albert Park 0, Altona North 3 Caulfield Grammarians 6, Yarra Jets 2 Melbourne Lions 7										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P			
1 Brunswick Zebras 1 Western Eagles 2										

Womens State League Div 2 South-East: Mooroolbark 0 Mornington 0, Ashburton 1 (E Meallin) Box Hill United Pythagoras SC 0										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P			
1 (A Townshend E Defina E Hubbard 2 A Laver-Gawell) Diamond Valley Utd 1										

Womens State League Div 3 North-West: Boroondara Eagles 5 (A Townshend E Defina E Hubbard 2 A Laver-Gawell) Diamond Valley Utd 1										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P			
1 (A Georgiou) Langwarrin 1										

Womens State League Div 3 South-East: Knox City 1 (A Georgiou) Langwarrin 1										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P			
1 (A Georgiou) Langwarrin 1										

Womens Metropolitan League North-West: Melbourne Lions 0, Ashburton 1 (E Meallin) Box Hill United Pythagoras SC 0										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P			
1 (A Georgiou) Langwarrin 1										

Womens Metropolitan League Central: Fitzroy City 3 South Melbourne 1, Brunswick Zebras 1 (R King) Port Melbourne 1										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P			
1 (A Georgiou) Langwarrin 1										

Womens Metropolitan League East - North-West: Mooroolbark 1 (S Lawley) Monbulk Rangers SC 3, Boroondara Eagles 7 Croydon City Arrows 0										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P			
1 (A Georgiou) Langwarrin 1										

Mens Thirds League Div 2 North-West: Melbourne University 9 Plenty Valley Lions 0										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P			
1 (A Georgiou) Langwarrin 1										

Mens Thirds League Div 2 South-East: Boroondara Eagles 1 RMIT Redbacks 5, Riversdale 2 Melbourne University 1										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P			
1 (A Georgiou) Langwarrin 1										

Mens Thirds League Div 3 North-West: La Trobe University 1 Kyneton District 4 (A Biddle N Monsborough R Cole 2)										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P			
1 (A Georgiou) Langwarrin 1										

Mens Thirds League Div 3 South-East: Warragul Utd 3 East Bentleigh 0										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P			
1 (A Georgiou) Langwarrin 1										

Mens Metropolitan League North-West: P W D L F A P										
Bundoora Utd	17	11	0	3	53	23	36			
Light Utd	18	9	3	6	39	25	30			
Sunshine Heights Western Tigers	FC 17	10	1	6	28	24	28			
Tullamarine Jets	17	8	3	6	53	33	27			
Keon Park	18	9	1	8	35	48	25			
Oak Park SC	18	6	6	6	26	26	24			
Kellor Wolves	18	5	4	9	31	41	19			
Mitchell Rangers	17	4	3	10	23	34	15			
Northern Utd	18	3	4	11	21	55	10			

Mens Metropolitan League North-West: P W D L F A P										
Tullamarine Jets	17	15	0	2	75	29	45			
Oak Park SC	18	12	1	5	61	34	37			
Kellor Wolves	18	11	1	6	78	38	34			
Bundoora Utd	17	9	1	7	49	35	28			
Sunshine Heights Western Tigers	FC 17	7	3	7	41	33	24			
Light Utd	18	7	3	8	62	58	24			
Mitchell Rangers	17	5	3	9	52	64	18			
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